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THE COTTON MILLS
OF
SOUTH CAROLINA
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THE COTTON MILLS
OF
SOUTH CAROLINA



A Series of

Observations and Facts



AS PUBLISHED IN LETTERS WRITTEN TO
The News and Courier

BY

AUGUST KOHN,

Manager Columbia Bureau, The News and Courier.

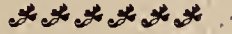


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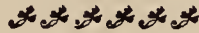


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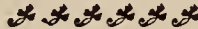
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The Children in the Cotton Mills.

THE NEWS AND COURIER begins this morning the publication of a series of articles about the conditions actually existing in the Cotton Mills of South Carolina. These conditions have been grossly misrepresented by professional and sectional reformers in an effort to create a public sentiment against the principal manufacturing industry in the South, and some of our people, moved by the pitiful tales which have been told, would legislate the children out of the mills without making provision for their care by the State.

In order that the public may be well informed on the subject, THE NEWS AND COURIER instructed its Columbia representative, Mr. August Kohn, to make a close and thorough study of the labor conditions in the cotton mills of the State, with special reference to the treatment of the children employed in the mills and the steps which ought to be taken for their deliverance from the bondage in which it has been alleged they are held. The first of Mr. Kohn's letters is printed this morning. It will be followed by other letters, from day to day, until the subject has been covered. It is unnecessary to say that Mr. Kohn will give the results of his own intelligent observations in a perfectly impartial manner, without prejudice to the children in the mills, and without hostility to the owners of the mills.

ARTICLE I—INTRODUCTORY.

The eyes of the world are upon South Carolina. It is making most rapid agricultural, industrial and educational strides. Perhaps most remarkable of all the developments has been that of the cotton mill industry. It has been the wonder and the admiration of all. Twenty years ago the total capital represented in all textile enterprises in the State aggregated only \$2,500,000. To-day there are more than \$35,000,000 invested in the cotton mills of this little Commonwealth. Think of it, that the cotton mills alone represent over 10 per cent of the total taxable property of the State! This gives some idea of the phenomenal growth of the industry. If we have not kept close tab on the growth and development of this industry it has passed almost beyond the conception of most of us.

A great deal has recently been written about the industry in South Carolina. The cotton mills, their conditions and their labor have attracted more outside writers, more lecturers and more committees than, perhaps, any other one institution of the State in years. Magazines, weekly newspapers and daily papers of all sorts have been publishing articles about the mills in South Carolina, and the special magnet has been what is familiarly known as "Child Labor." One after another writers have come here with pencil and camera to write about our mills. It was not long before these writers had some people thinking that the Carolina cotton mills were worse in their exactions of labor than the "sweat shops." There was no good side to the cotton mill industry. It was all ugly, it was all grinding. That was the story of the sensational writer. If there were good it was not brought out. There is the good side of the cotton mill, and there may be some bad features. Too little is known of the true conditions and facts of the industry, and so that the reading public might know more of this work, which employs nearly forty thousand persons, and supports one hundred thousand white people, The News and Courier detailed me to look into the matter. What was undertaken was to look at the conditions as they actually existed, and to make inquiry into the status of the operative classes. It is

not pretended that the work has been completely done, but the hope is that some of the facts presented will be of general interest. There was no attempt to find exceptional or freak conditions, and those who care to read any of these articles need not expect to find sensational stories or word pictures, but plain, simple facts, without color or sentiment. The facts are not intended to be presented with prejudice although, possibly, some who see things otherwise may so think.

"Child Labor" has, unfortunately, been the one glaring topic discussed about cotton mills for the past few years, and it may be on this account that much of the inquiry was directed to certain phases of this question.

There are more than a hundred cotton mills in South Carolina, operating more than 2,500,000 spindles, and it was not practicable to visit each and every one of these mills. It would not have added much to the result of the inquiries, as the conditions are largely the same, and the conclusions drawn after visiting a dozen or more mills would be pretty much the same as if all were visited. It has been said that writers who are disposed to give both sides, or maybe look with disfavor upon the child labor agitation, make it a point to visit and write about the "parade mills." Exactly what is meant by "parade mills" is not known, because pretty much all the mills in Carolina are of the same class. If the non-employment of children be regarded as the test, then they are pretty much the same all over the State, for they all employ children in about the same ratio. Indeed, the mills in Columbia, about which so much sensation has been made, and where 150 employees out of 3,885 are reported by the officers to be under 12 years of age, is perhaps a fair, but not always equal, average—less than three in a hundred. The tendency is distinctly and emphatically to reduce this average, largely for economic reasons. It was my privilege and pleasure to visit cotton mills in all sections of the State—from Lancaster to Greenville and from Spartanburg to Bamberg. The prosperous, the plodding, the "parade" and the plain mills were all visited. A visit was made to the Horse Creek Valley section, to compare it with Orangeburg, or Spartanburg, or Anderson, or Laurens, so that the conditions might be inquired into, but not for sensationalism. There may be some one who could go right behind me and who, by search, could find disgruntled or dissatisfied operatives, who would picture something not here recorded, or who may dream dreams in daylight, but my purpose was to encounter operatives here and there as a type and let their views stand for themselves. I did not interview any selected operatives, but, on my own account, without escort generally, sought my information.

There are a great many—a very great many—phases of life in a cotton mill community that would be interesting, but it may be well just now to limit the scope of the inquiry to such matters as may have relation to the much discussed "Child Labor" question; the success of the mills of South Carolina; the future of the industry; its dangers and its advantages.

There is no Chinese wall about the cotton mills of this State, no high fences and locked gates. Indeed, at every point, open frankness was encountered and a perfect willingness to give information was found, even to the point of permitting access to the records and accounts. This willingness was as marked on the part of the mill owners as with the operatives, and if there was any disposition to hide anything it was not noticeable.

It is not intended to cover this whole subject in any one article, and on that account it is my purpose to subdivide the discussion and present various phases. Of course, the whole subject cannot be discussed even in a series of newspaper articles, but it is my hope and purpose to present at least some facts which will be of general interest to the people of South Carolina, as well as to the outside world, that may be interested in the conditions of the cotton mills in South Carolina.

August Kohn.

ARTICLE II.

Life in the Factory and Life on the Farm--A Comparison of the Wages Earned in Working in the Fields and in the Mills.

According to the last census over 30,000 people were then actually employed in the cotton mills of South Carolina. There are to-day perhaps 40,000 who are engaged in textile manufactures in this State, making 100,000 dependent upon the industry. The vast majority of these people are from this State. In some of the cotton mills in the upper part of Carolina, or what is known as the Piedmont section, there are a number of operatives who have come from the mountainous sections of North Carolina, and some who have come from as far West as Tennessee. There are no foreign-born operatives in any of the cotton mills of South Carolina and practically all of them are of the same type as our own people.

A great majority of the working classes are from the farms, very few coming from the towns and cities. In some of the mill communities, which are quite old, the children of the original operatives who went from the farms are working in the mills, and with this exception pretty much all who are to-day on the pay-rolls are from the farms. Most of those who are making cloths and yarns here were what are known as the tenant-class of South Carolina. They are good, honest people, who have always been in moderate circumstances and who have worked for a living. It is an unfortunate condition that it is the common lot of man to be poor. The vast majority of the people of the world are poor—very poor—and it is not unusual nor unexpected that there should be in South Carolina this class of poor people; people who have to work and work hard for a living, and the question with the 40,000 people who are to-day toiling in the cotton mills of South Carolina is whether they are better off in the cotton mills than they would be on the farms, as there seems to be no alternative in the peculiar conditions that exist in this State. A person who is poor and who has no special training, it seems, must either work on a farm for himself or for some one else, or work in a cotton mill. There seems to be no other opening, and the point that ought to be considered by all who are interested in the welfare of the poorer classes of the white people in this State is simply whether they are better off on the farm than they are in the cotton mills, and how their condition can be improved.

There can be no question that those who are to-day at work in the cotton mills, whether for proper reasons or not, are better satisfied where they are, and in most cases those who have left the cotton mills and gone back to the farms have invariably returned to the mills. It is well to look at both sides of the question.

I found, in a few cases, people who had just come from the cotton fields to the cotton mills. They were not provided with any extraordinary amount of furniture, and in one case I found a family which had just moved into a mill settlement that had brought all of its belongings in a single wagon. Had that same farmer worked in the cotton mill as long as he had in the cotton field the question is whether he would not have had more to show for his labor. I believe that the testimony would be that he would have more at the cotton mill, although it is almost a rule that operatives are an extravagant class. I found that at a great many of the mills savings accounts had been opened, and large deposits have been made in banks; that the operatives have managed out of their earnings to buy farms, town lots and build houses; that some of them have acquired bank stock, and cotton mill stock, and that there is a growing disposition on their part to save. But it seems to be an up-hill job; in fact, a very difficult one to instill into the minds of the average operative of this State the idea of economy. It is not that they do not make sufficient money with which to live and save something, but they seem to have the idea that there is no use for them to save. They dress almost to the point of extravagance, and in any mill community the grocers will tell you that there is nothing too good for the operative, and the very best grades of flour and the very best provisions are bought and sold to the operative classes.

At one of the mills in the Pee-Dee section, which I visited, the president of the company became interested in my inquiries as to whether the operatives were bet-

ter satisfied in the cotton mills than they had been on the farms, and he suggested to me that he would stop the mill so that a hand primary might be taken as to whether the operatives were really better satisfied in the cotton mills than they had been on the farms. I thanked him for his suggestion, but really did not think it necessary, and he then called a foreman, who, with a wave of his hand, asked about twenty-five or thirty young women who were working in the spinning room to come to one side of the room, and there I questioned each one of the girls, who were from sixteen to thirty years of age, whether they would rather work in the cotton mill than return to the farms, and without reservation each and every one of them said she was satisfied in the cotton mill and could not be made to return to the farms. The question now is why they were of this opinion. They all seemed to be well dressed and entirely satisfied with their work. I talked to one very bright girl in particular, whose name is Miss Alice Siler. She told me that she had two sisters and a brother working in the cotton mills, and that their pay was \$2 39 for the four, which was an average of 60 cents a day, and that she for one certainly did not wish to return to the farm. She said that they had been farming and that she felt that it was much better for the family to remain in the mill, where they were all getting along so well and had had the advantages of schools and churches; that they had not enjoyed in the country. This is only a type of the conversations which I had, and, as I have already said, without an exception, each of these twenty-five young women who were called up stated that they did not care to make a change from the mill to the farm. This individual preference of remaining in the cotton mill as against farm work, may be a matter of mere personal liking, and, therefore, I went a little further, and at each of the mills which I visited I asked the heads of some of the families to explain to me why it was that they preferred to work in the cotton mills to going back to the farms from which they had come, and many of the operatives to whom I spoke gave different reasons. But it may be well here to call attention to the money side of the question, as the operative has as keen an appreciation of such things as anyone else, and he knows how to figure, just as well as does the ten-horse farmer, whether or not it is to his monetary advantage to remain on the farm and toil for little or nothing, or whether to go to the cotton factory for what he can make there.

The facts that are here given are not those of any peculiar or extraordinary cases, but are those of people who were selected at random, and without any idea as to what their individual experience had been.

For instance, at one of the mills I found Mr Martin, who had been at work at that particular mill for seven years. He had gone from near Walhalla to the mill. He had two daughters, who had been trained to mill work, but who had gone to Gaffney and were there earning \$1 and \$1 30 each per day, consequently these were not included in the calculation, but are instances mentioned as to what that particular family was doing. Mr Martin said that he himself made 60 cents a day "running sides;" that he had a sixteen-year-old boy, who was making 50 cents a day "running fronts;" another son, 14 years old, who was "doffing," and still another, who was 12 years, "or a little over," as he expressed it, who was making 40 cents a day spinning. This made the father and three children, all of whom were in almost the kindergarten of the mill industry, earn \$1 95 a day. Now, giving credit for 310 working days, would make this family, at \$1 95 a day—earn \$604 55 a year.

Mr Martin went on to say that he made this much, and then explained that he had raised ten bales of cotton which, at present prices, would bring \$400 gross; that he made 25 bushels of corn, net, after he fed his horse or mule and "breaded" himself and family. This net corn product was valued at \$15, and made his earnings \$415 gross. Out of this he paid \$20 for guano and \$133, or one-third of the amount of cotton he made, for rent, which left him \$292, and no allowance for any food stuff for himself or cattle, which he might not be able to raise on his small plantation. Out of the \$604 55, which he and his small family made in the mill, he said, it cost him \$24 a year for rent; his wood, \$4 per month, or \$48 a year, and his food cost him 50 cents a day, or \$15 a month, or \$180 a year. This made his expenses for wood, food and rent \$252, which, taken from the \$604 55, the amount which he made with his small children in the mill, netted \$352 55. This made the difference between the \$292 and \$352 55, in favor of the work in the cotton mill, and two of his daughters had in the meantime left and gone to Gaffney, where they were making \$2 30 a day. I made inquiries and found that the wood account was not generally as large as \$48 a year, but Mr Martin's own figures were taken and go to show the result as figured out exactly by an operative himself.

At another cotton mill I happened to meet on the streets a bright-looking young man, who said he was the son of "Singing Jim Outz," of the Meeting Street section of Edgefield County. He told me that he owned one hundred acres of land, and that last year he had made four bales of cotton on the seventeen acres of land which he cultivated, and that he had gotten rent for the rest of the land which was in cul-

tivation. From this four bales of cotton he said that he had gotten about \$40 a bale, or \$160 for the four bales. He made seventy-five bushels of corn, of which fifty bushels were necessary for his farming operations, netting twenty-five bushels, which was worth, say, \$12 50. He bought seven sacks of acid at \$14, and this left as a net result of the corn and cotton, \$158 50. Now, Mr Outz says that he went to the cotton factory in August, of this year, and that he is now earning 75 cents per day, or \$4 50 a week, or \$234 a year. He figures that his rent will be \$36 a year, which will leave him \$198 net, as his wife is in charge of a private boarding house, and they already have about six people from their vicinity who have left their farms and are now working in the same cotton mill, boarding with his family. He figures that he will make this \$198 net, and that he will be able to rent his farm for from \$75 to \$100 a year in addition. He was distinct and emphatic in saying that he could do his work in the mill just as easily as he could his farm work, and he was no more tired at the end of the day than he had been on his farm.

In the eastern part of the State I struck a farmer who had been especially prosperous, and who made from fourteen to eighteen bales of cotton, and who was one of the best farmers in his section. He told me that he had been on the farm for ten years, and that in all that time he had made no money net, and after I had been in conversation with him for some time, his wife, who is a very bright woman, said that her chief reason for leaving the Grigger place was "It's sure money in the cotton mills, and it ain't on the farm." This family had four boys in the mill and one girl, and they agreed that they never made less than \$50 per month, and that the beauty of it was that they got the money at the end of each month. An amusing incident of my interview with these folks was that the husband and wife had some contention as to whether the girls or boys made the best farm hands; the husband contending that the boys did the best work, and the wife insisting that the girls all hoed their acre or acre and a half without any complaint, and that was more than could be gotten out of the boys. The woman had a small child, about 8 years old, standing at her side, and I asked her why the little fellow looked so pale—he had not been working in the cotton mill, she said—but she added that he and one of his elder brothers had always eaten clay, and she did not know how to make them stop it, and she thought the life in the cotton mill might help him to get over it. Meanwhile, the woman herself was chewing a snuff-stick.

I talked to one of the superintendents of one of the largest cotton mills of the State, and he put the argument, as between the cotton mills and the farmer's help, to me in a different light to what it had been put by the operatives themselves. He said he had, prior to his going to the cotton mills, owned and operated 2,750 acres of the best land in the State, and that some of the people who were then working in the mill had worked with him on the farm. The average pay, he continued, to these very people on the farm was not over 40 cents a day, and the average pay in the mills was as much as 70 cents per day. The pay in the mill was in money, while on the farm a large proportion of what was paid was gotten from the farm store and was represented by provisions and supplies bought at fancy prices, and that, as a matter of fact, that the pay of these same people on the farms was not one-half as much as they got in the mill. He went on to say that he knew whereof he spoke, because he had the actual records in very many of the cases, and that, in his opinion, the pay of the farm hands was not different in his case from what it was with very many other farms of the same class, and there is no need for the farms to pay as much as the mills, because they can get what labor they need at the prices now prevailing.

At one of the Spartanburg mills I was told this actual experience of the head of a family: He made six bales of cotton, which would bring \$240, and paid for fertilizers and one-third for rent, which made the farm net him \$134. This did not provide any funds with which to clothe his family, and, assuming—a somewhat violent assumption—that he made all the food stuffs that he used on his farm, he would net sufficient to clothe himself and his family.

On the other hand he made himself....	60 cts per day
He had two daughters, who made 80 cents each ..	\$1 60 cts per day
He had two sons, one of whom was a carder, who made	40 cts per day
Another, in the spinning room, who made	30 cts per day

Net for the family	\$ 2 90	per day
Multiply this by 310 days; it made the family earn	\$899	a year
From this, rent, at	24	a year
Wood at	20	a year
Living expenses a month	25	a year

This made this man's family earn for him, net \$555, as against \$134 on the farm, or a difference of \$421, after paying expenses, in favor of himself and family, as a result of his having gone to the mills.

Now, this particular farmer said he enjoyed better school facilities, better church accommodations, and was better provided with a home at the mill than he had been on his farm in the country.

It is to be remembered that none of these cases that I have cited have been selected with any view of making a good showing, because I have the records of quite a number of families which I will give in a subsequent article, in which a family of the same size averaged double that amount a day, but I have not taken a case in which any one of the members of the family made so much as a dollar a day, and it is almost a rarity to find a large family in which there is not at least one member who is a weaver, and pretty much all of those who are in the weave room are making \$1 per day. In quite a number of cases I found that the head of the family would prosecute farming operations and leave his family in the mill, and then, after the crop had been gathered, would himself rejoin his family to remain there until time to begin work on his new crop. In most cases this resulted in the abandonment of farming operations altogether.

Mrs Seay, who is very comfortably fixed up at Spartanburg, gave me a very interesting story of her experiences on the farm, as compared with those in the mill, and said that they very often got as much as \$70 a month in pay at the end of each month while they were at Clifton, and that while she and her family liked farming operations very much, they could not, in her opinion, make as much money on the farm, and that her husband was trying to carry on some farm work, but that she was much better satisfied in the mill than to remain on the farm.

It would be useless to multiply cases of this kind, but to those who will take the trouble to look over the figures that are here given, and add to them their individual knowledge of the results of small farming operations, what has been given will suffice as to the making up of a very fair type of the conditions as they are to be found in the cotton mills. In making these calculations it is also very well to figure that the average pay; that is, not the average pay of those who work in any one department of the cotton mill, but the average throughout the mill of all classes of labor, not including the executive officers, is about 70 cents a day, and in a subsequent article it will be shown what the average pay of the operator is as learned from him and the books of the cotton mills.

August Kohn.

ARTICLE III.

The Wages Earned by the Workers in the Mills—Pay Rolls showing what industrious families make—Few Children Employed.

What are the cotton mills doing for or against the development of the State and its people? Do the workers in the mills make enough to supply all their wants? Do they make as much as the workers in other industrial occupations? The practical financial results of farming operations are generally known; but the people of the State do not know very much about the earnings of the people who work in the cotton mills. There have been all sorts of stories about their being paid insignificant wages, and romances about their getting practically no wages for certain kinds of work.

I find that the wages are pretty much the same throughout the State, and that the average pay in the mills, as a whole, is seventy cents per day.

The cotton mills in the Horse Creek Valley are perhaps paying a little more than the mills in other parts of the State, but as a rule the pay is pretty much the same. At some of the mills it is less than at others in the same county or the same vicinity,

but this difference is more apparent than real, as the difference in wages is more than balanced by the advantages enjoyed by the operatives in the mills paying the lower wages. Besides, the operative is the first to find any difference in the amount that he can earn per day. He is not bound to remain at any one place, and does not remain any longer than he wishes to. Before removing from one mill to another the operative is sure to find out what wages is paid and as the matter of wages controls the movements of the workers, it is almost a necessity that the mills should pay practically the same thing. The mills do not pay many fixed salaries. I should say that almost 90 per cent of the entire pay-roll of any one of the factories in the State is figured upon a piece basis, and the other 10 per cent is paid by the day. It will be seen, therefore, that upon a piece pay basis, if the pay per side, or the pay per cut, or the pay per hank, is the same, an operative can make as much at one mill as he can at another, provided the machinery is as competent of results.

I made inquiry if there was any concert of action among the mills as to the pay that is allowed, but found that such is not the case. A great many of the mills pay by the month, and some of them pay every two weeks. I find that, on account of the demand for labor, semi-monthly payments will be adopted, instead of monthly payments.

I tried to find out at all the mills I visited what is the actual average pay of the operatives. In several of the mills in the eastern part of the State I found that the average was 70 cents a day.

In one of the mills in the Piedmont section I found that the average pay per day was only 57 1-5 cents. In other mills—in fact in most of the mills—I found the average to be slightly higher than this, and I think that it is altogether fair to say that the average pay for the operatives, taken as a whole, is between 70 and 72 cents per day. A cotton mill is divided into these compartments:

Carding.	Spinning.
Spooling and warping.	Weaving.
Drawing.	Slashing.
Cloth room	Machine shops.
Outdoor labor, connected with the sanitation, streets, etc.	

At one of the cotton mills I asked about the average pay, and the treasurer of the company exhibited a pay-roll, which presents so interesting a tabulation and statement of the mill pay that I asked to be allowed to use it. I suggested that it would not be fair that I should use the name of the mill, but that I would like the general public to see exactly the proportion of labor used in the various departments, and the average pay in each of these departments.. I herewith present the pay-roll of one of the typical cotton mills of South Carolina, which was gotten up without any idea of its ever finding itself in print. It is as follows:

	Pay-roll, two weeks.	Men	Women.	Chil- dren.	Total em- ployed.	Average
Carding	\$ 572 09	46	13c	7	66	72c
Spinning	705 35	30	21	46	97	60 7-12c
Spooling and warping	204 68	3	4	27	34	50c
Weaving	1,800 93	84	78	..	162	92 2-3c
Drawing	1,190 06	1	11	1	13	76 1-3c
Slasher	50 40	4	..	..	4	\$1 05
Cloth room	158 81	15	..	5	20	66 1-3c
Machine shops	323 97	25	..	..	25	1 08
Out-door labor ..	213 39	23	..	..	23	77c
Totals	\$4,148 68	231	127	86	444	78 5-9c

This makes no allowance for absentees, but is based upon full time. The average would be higher if full time were made.

It will be noted that the averages taken in this pay-roll do not include the salary list of officers for two weeks, which aggregated \$265 69—the compensation of president, superintendent, treasurer, shipping clerk, bookkeeper, stenographer, in all seven people. But the average of 78 5-9 cents per day for the operatives is not influenced by the pay for these salaried officers.

Under the head of children it will be found that eighty-six are on the pay-roll. This, I understand, includes all under 16 years of age, which is the age used in the United States census report to designate children. I found upon examination that this pay-roll, which is here given as a type, was within \$18 and 1 hand of the pay-roll of the two weeks preceding; within \$4 and 4 hands of the pay-roll of the two weeks of the pay-roll of October preceding that, and within \$20 and 2 hands of the two weeks of the pay-roll in October preceding that. As will be explained later on, a large majority; in fact, practically all, of the children who are used in the cotton mills, as in this instance, are in the spinning department of the mills. In this case seventy-three out of eighty-six children are employed in the spinning room, and the same proportion exists in practically all the mills of the State which are manufacturing the same grade of goods. No children are employed in some of the departments.

At one of the cotton mills I found that the average pay in the weaving room was \$1 10; in the carding room, 70 cents; in the spinning room, 33 cents—making an average pay in the various departments of 70 cents per day.

At one of the largest mills in the State the average pay for the month of October was 85 cents per day; average pay in September, 83 cents per day, and average pay in August, 81 cents per day, for the mill as a whole.

At another mill, in one of the upper counties of the State, a comparatively new mill, the average pay was 81 cents per day. These figures are not estimates.

At my special request an accommodating mill officer prepared this plain and explicit statement:

"We have in spinning room, on last pay-roll, 190 names, making 2,089 days. Pay-roll for spinning room, \$1,001 60, making an average of 47 9-10 cents per day.

"On card room pay-roll there appears 80 names, making 755½ days. Card room pay-roll was \$599 90, being an average of 79 4-10 cents per day.

"On the weave room pay-roll there appear 301 names, making 3,057 days. Pay-roll amounts to \$3,002 50, being an average of 98 1-5 cents per day.

"Cloth room, 16 names, 147 days. Pay-roll \$118 10, an average of 73½ cents per day.

"Shop, 16 names, 176 days. Pay-roll, \$213 85; average, \$1 21 4-10 cents per day.

"Total number of operatives, 604. Total number of days, 6,224. Total pay-roll, \$4,935 95. General average, 79 cents per capita.

"Full time would have been 7,248 days; so you see we have averaged about 84 per cent of full time throughout the mill."

It may be very well, in this same connection, to say that a number of children in the cotton mills make as much as 50 or 60 cents a day; some only make 25 cents. Although the children are paid lower wages than any other class of operatives, there are a number of children in the mills who make more money than their fathers make—by the use of the term "children" I mean those who are under 16 years of age.

I had prepared for me at several mills the actual experiences in the way of pay of a number of families. The twenty-four families noted are not employed in one mill, but are taken at random from among the pay-rolls of all the mills. They do not present the worst results; neither do they indicate the best results attainable by families employed in the mills.

I have purposely avoided stating where these families are employed, as well as their names, because some of the mill people suggested that it is possible that some superintendent who was over-anxious to get help might enter into communication with some of these families, and cause some little friction and on that account I have not

given the full names of the families or the mills, but the figures are presented exactly as they were gotten up for me, by the different authorities, and I think show much more than many columns of reading would show on the same subject.

Family.	Occupation.	Pay per day.	Family.	Occupation.	Pay per day.
Mr John P.	Outside	\$1 00	Mr M. F. A.	Spinning	55
Mary	Spooler	70	Thomas (19 years) ..	Weaving	90
Oscar	Spinning	75	Frank (15 years)	Spinning	50
Smith	Spinning	75	Paul (13 years)	Spinning	40
Bessie	Spinning	72	Grady (12 years)	Spinning	40
James	Spinning	45			
Milan	Spinning	40			\$2 75

\$4 77

Family.	Occupation.	Pay per day.	Family.	Occupation.	Pay per day.
Mr J. L. O.			Mr R. A. H.:		
Della	Spooler	\$1 10	10 Vesther (19 years) ..	Weaving	\$1 05
Ned	Spinning	72	Herbert (17 years) ..	Weaving	90
Henry	Spinning	72	Loris (16 years)	Weaving	70
Garland	Spinning	72	Maud (15 years)	Spinning	65
Mathew	Spinning	54	Norwood (13 years) ..	Spinning	45

\$3 80

Family.	Occupation.	Pay per day.	Family.	Occupation.	Pay per day.
Mr J. L. W.	Weaver	\$1 75	Mr M. S.	Spinning	60
Effie	Weaver	1 00	L. A. (19 years)	Weaving	90
Minnie	Weaver	1 00	Sallie (18 years)	Weaving	75
Jennie	Weaver	90	Robert (17 years)	Carding	60
Brooks	Weaver	75	Earl (15 years)	Carding	55
Maud	Weaver	75	Grov (13 years)	Spinning	40

\$6 15

Family.	Occupation.	Pay per day.	Family.	Occupation.	Pay per day.
Mr J. C. J.	Spinning	75	Mr C. L. C.	Cloth room	60
Gertrude	Spinning	64	Ella (19 years)	Dressing & Spl'ing....	80
Esther	Spinning	64	Marion (18 years)	Spinning	75
Joe	Spinning	54	Allie (16 years)	Drawing in	75
Fate	Spinning	54	Arthur (13 years) ..	Drawing in	60
Chalmers	Spinning	32	Ernest (15 years) ..	Spinning	55
Neal	Spinning	25			

\$3 68

Family.	Occupation.	Pay per day.	Family.	Occupation.	Pay per day.
Mr W. P. R.	Card room	\$1 10	Mr L. M. R.	Outside	\$ 55
J. P.	Card room	1 10	F. A. (23 years)	Weaving	1 40
Sudie	Card room	60	R. D. (21 years)	Weaving	1 90
L. B.	Card room	50	J. A. (19 years)	Weaving	1 50
Eva	Card room	55	Sallie (18 years)	Spinning	65
		\$2 85	Carrie (16 years)	Weaving	75
			George (12 years) ..	Weaving	60
			Mattie (15 years) ..	Spinning	60

\$8 20

Family.	Occupation.	Pay per day.	Family.	Occupation.	Pay per day.
Mr J. J. C.	Outside	90	Mr T. S. F.	Watchman	90
Mabel	Weaver	90	H. B. (20 years)	Weaving	\$1 00
Alma	Spinning	72	Mack (18 years)	Weaving	1 00
Lena	Weaving	75	Raman (16 years)	Spinning	60
Sallie	Weaving	75	Ernest (14 years)	Spinning	60
Robert	Spinning	64			
Julia	Spooler	30			\$4 10

\$4 96

Family.	Occupation.	Pay per day.	Family.	Occupation.	Pay per day.
Mrs M. E. L.:			Mr J. T. G.	Machine shop	\$1 00
Claud	Card room	75	J. M. (21 years)	Carding	1 00
Floy	Drawing in	72	Rena (17 years)	Spinning	70
Janie	Spinning	72	Walter (15 years)	Carding	65
Mabel	Spinning	64	Adger (12 years)	Carding	55
Othella	Spinning	64			
Carroll	Spinning	32			\$3 90
Gertrude	Spinning	18			

\$3 97

Family.	Occupation.	Pay per day.	Family.	Occupation.	Pay per day.
Mr Albert C.:			Mr M. C. H.	Cloth room	55
George	Cloth room ..	80	Ed (18 years)	Carding	70
Clara	Card room	80	Lora (16 years)	Drawing in	60
Alma	Card room	75	Daisey (15 years) ...	Drawing in	60
Grover	Weaver	75	Willie (13 years) ...	Spinning ..	45
Mary	Spinning	64	Ernest (12 years) ..	Spinning	45
Major	Spinning	55			
Vernon	Spinning	55			\$3 35
Daisey	Spinning	42			

\$5 26

Family.	Occupation.	Pay per day.	Family.	Occupation.	Pay per day.
Mr Ed G.	Weaver ..	\$1 00	Mrs H.:		
Essie	Weaver	60	George (18 years) ...	Spinning	65
Bud ..	Weaver ..	75	Zeb (17 years)	Spinning	65
Victor	Weaver ..	90	Eules (16 years) ...	Spinning	60
Oscar	Weaver	90	Annie (14 years)	Spinning	55
Lella	Spinning	72	Addie (12 years) ...	Spinning	55
Oliver ...	Spinning	40			\$3 00

\$5 27

Family.	Occupation.	Pay per day.	Family.	Occupation.	Pay per day.
Mr Robert B.	Weaver	\$1 00	Mr C. C. B.	Elevator ..	60
W. D.	Weaver	70	Henry (21 years) ...	Weaving	\$1 60
Dave	Weaver ..	90	Robert (20 years) ..	Weaving ..	1 50
John ..	Weaver ..	1 00	C. C., Jr (18 years) .	Weaving	1 00
			Archie (16 years) ...	Carding	55
			Bedford (12 years) .	Spinning	50

\$3 60

\$5 75

Family.	Occupation.	Pay per day.	Family.	Occupation.	Pay per day.
Mr A. H. H.:			Mr C. O. S.:		
Walker	Spinning	72	Oscar (21 years)	Weaving	\$1 00
Amy	Spinning	64	J. M. (18 years) ..	Spinning	85
John ..	Weaving ..	80	Maynard (16 years).	Carding	50
Clyde	Weaving	75			
Etta	Drawing in ..	80			\$2 90

\$3 71

Family.	Occupation.	Pay per day.	Family.	Occupation.	Pay per day.
Mr Pinkney S.:			Mr J. J. T.	Outside	95
David	Weaver	75	G. W.	Cloth room	60
Sarah	Weaver	90	Gena (22 years) Dr'sing and spooling..		90
Walker	Spinning ..	\$1 25	Mamie (19 years) Ds'ring, spooling ..		80
Mohon	Spinning	72	Jessie (7 years) ...	Drawing in ..	60
Furmon	Spinning ..	55			
Hector	Spinning	40			\$3 85

\$4 57

It will be noticed in these tables that the expression, "outside help," is used. This means that the person named, often the head of the family, is employed on the street work, or in some other class of employment outside of the cotton mills, which is paid for by the cotton mill.

August Kohn.

ARTICLE IV.

The Sanitary condition of the Cotton Mills and the Cotton Mill Villages—Vital Statistics which show that work in the mills is not conducive to Brevity of Life—Mills in which Grandfathers and Grandchildren are working Side by Side.

In previous articles upon the cotton mill subject I have discussed the income of the operatives and looked at the question from a purely monetary standpoint. There is a great deal that might be said in regard to the additional compensation which the people who work in the cotton mills secure. By this I mean school facilities, church advantages, libraries, sanitary arrangements, medical attention and the like.

A great deal has been said about the health of the cotton mill operatives and that they are not as healthy as other people. I do not know whether this is a fact or not, but it has been my purpose to get at certain facts and figures relative to the cotton mills, which would tend to show whether or not there is anything in this contention. Personally I do not see any reason in the world why the cotton mill operatives should not be as healthy as they were before they went to the mills, or as healthy as if they worked out of the mills, except for the confinement within doors. Mill work is necessarily confining. People who live in the country are not well provided with medical attention or sanitary conveniences, as are those who live in the mill communities. Above all things the managers of the mills wish to keep up the average attendance of the operatives in the mills, and I have found, by actual figures, that the cotton mill operative does not average more than 87 per cent of his time in the mill. If this time were deducted from the operative's steady work it would be seen that he has some relaxation, and that he is not continuously in the mill.

Much has been said about the heat and the atmospheric conditions of the cotton mills. It is true that the mills, as a rule, do keep their rooms at a steady temperature, and they do not like it to go under 70 degrees. In some of the mills that I visited I observed that the thermometer reached between 70 and 78 degrees, but I do not regard such a temperature as undesirable, especially at this season of the year. In many of the mills I noticed children running around barefooted. This does not mean that these children have no shoes or stockings, although, possibly, if some of the sensational writers were to come here and go through the cotton mills they might say that they found children in the cotton mills, in December, without shoes or stockings. If they would look around they would find that the shoes and stockings of these little ones were on some window sill or nearby, and that the children preferred to work in the mills without them, and when they went out that they put them on. In the summer time the cotton mills generally throw their windows open, and, as is known to all, the ambition of the mill architect is to give the maximum amount of glass windows in all buildings, and with all the windows thrown open there is no reason why the operatives should not be as fortunate as those who have to toil elsewhere. The cotton mill operative is not a worker from preference any more than if he had to toil outside of a cotton mill. Those who are working in the mills to-day would have to work for a living wherever they were. Some years ago cotton mill operatives had to live in an atmosphere filled with all sorts of impurities, but with the improvements that are now being installed in practically all of the cotton mills; the introduction of electric fans and the ventilating machines, the atmospheric conditions are made altogether favorable. About the worst feature of the cotton mill work that can be found is that the people have to keep constantly at their work, but, as I have shown, they do not work every day, as the average is not more than 87 per cent of steady work. Indoor work is not as desirable as outdoor work; but whatever the conditions in the mills, the operatives are the pets, so to speak, of the managers, because, as any sensible man can see, their desire must be to have the maximum number of active operatives out of those who are in their community.

One of the largest mills in the State, and one which employs perhaps more people than any other mill corporation, has discovered that it is to its advantage to regularly employ a physician, and it is the business of this physician to treat, free of all cost and at the expense of the mill corporation, the help that is employed in the mill, and wherever the physics are of an ordinary character the medicine is supplied free.

In many of the cotton mill communities what are known as physicians' clubs are maintained, and in such cases the head of the family pays \$1 per month, if he has a family of ordinary size, upon which payment he is entitled to both medicine and treatment. At Pelzer there is a standing rule that no physician shall charge more than fifty cents for a day visit, and no physician can get more than seventy cents for a night call.

It may be very different from the picture which has been presented by some writers to say that the cotton mill communities are far above the average in their sanitary arrangements and in their drainage system. It is a fact, however, that in practically every mill community the owners pay for the conduct of the sanitary arrangements, and that the yards and streets and other places that need it are attended to by people who are paid out of the mill treasury. But it is impossible for the mills to require the operatives to keep their homes in order, and from what I could see some of the insides of the houses needed a sanitary inspection more than the outsides of these same homes. I judge that this slovenliness was not different from the condition to which these same few people had been accustomed before. It would not require any stretch of fancy to imagine that the sanitary condition of such homes was an improvement on the conditions in which these people had lived before beginning work in the mills. The Buffalo Cotton Mills, in Union County, has sanitary arrangements which cannot be improved upon and which are better than they are in almost any city in South Carolina. The system is perfect. In a number of houses occupied by employees there are bath and toilet rooms, and the drainage is thorough. Filtered water is provided for all the operatives from a water-works system which is owned by the mill. This is noted only as an example of what the mills are doing for their operatives. The mills will do everything they possibly can, within reason, to keep their help healthy, because by keeping them healthy they get more work out of them and insure a more willing spirit of co-operation in them. They can work better where they are healthy and where conditions are most favorable. It is safe to say that where the disposition of the mill owners is to do most for them, the operatives go. It is indeed a rare thing to find a mill community where sanitation, good water and outside care are not provided for by the mill owners.

It would be of interest to give the vital statistics in all the cotton mills in South Carolina, but generally the mills do not keep these records. It is a fact, however, that a number of them keep such records. I am in a position to give the statistics of several of the cotton mills, which are among the older corporations of the State, and where careful statistics of this kind have been kept, and they show a death-rate which is better than the average, so far as I am able to gather. I do not find at hand any reports which will give me satisfactory information about the death-rate in South Carolina—as no general records are kept. In the last census report, for 1900, the exact figures of the death rate are given only in such States as keep a registration of births and deaths. In this State, as is known, there is no such registration. In the registration States the death rate is reported to be about 19 or 20 per thousand population. The following statement of the Pelzer Cotton Mill, which is one of the best managed in South Carolina, will be of interest:

Annual Report. For Year.		Births	Deaths.
May 12, 1892	.. .. 1891	161	29
May 11, 1893	.... .. 1892	149	27
May 10, 1894	.... .. 1893	131	32
May 9, 1895	.... .. 1894	129	36
May 14, 1896	.... .. 1895	139	37
May 13, 1897	.... .. 1896	153	49
May 12, 1898	.... .. 1897	259	49
May 11, 1899	.... .. 1898	136	55
May 10, 1900	.... .. 1899	176	*90
May 9, 1901	.... .. 1900	210	**41
May 8, 1902	.... .. 1901	201	78

* Smallpox. ** Measles.

The mill population of Pelzer is between 5,500 and 6,000 and the number of employees 2,800. Consequently, taking the death-rate of the country at large at 20 per thousand, the average death-rate per year there should be 110, and, as will be noticed in the above statement, the deaths at no time in the last ten years have been anything like that. It has been as low as 27, against the average death-rate of 110 for the same population in the country at large. This does not seem to speak unfavorably for the health of the people who work in the cotton mills.

At Graniteville, which is one of the oldest of the cotton mills in the State, and which was built before the day of up-to-date sanitary arrangements, the best health prevails. I was able to get some statistics here, which will be of interest, as they cover a period of years. Last year the total number of interments at Graniteville was 48. Of this number 47 were from Graniteville and Warrentonville, which are mill communities, and the others were members of families who preferred to be buried in the old burial ground at Graniteville.

In 1901 the total interments were 55, of which number 35 were from Graniteville and Warrentonville. In 1900 the total number of interments were 31, of which number 25 were from Graniteville and Warrentonville.

In 1899 there were 20 interments from Graniteville and vicinity. This death-rate is based upon a total mill population of 3,500, and it is easy to figure how low the actual death-rate is.

In Graniteville there is a burial society which has been of great help to the people, and, in looking over the records of 1899, I find the following statement, then recorded by Mr Giles, who is president of the Burial Association: "The number of interments in the cemetery during the year was 44, an increase of 8 over last year, and of these only 20 lived in Graniteville and vicinity; a decrease of 4 from last year. Estimating the population of Graniteville at 2,000, (Warrentonville had not yet been built nor Graniteville enlarged,) which is probably less than the actual number, it makes a death-rate of 10 per one thousand inhabitants, which is doubtless as good a showing as can be made by any town in the State, and, considering that most of these were over 60 years of age, it speaks well for the health of our community."

As Mr Giles said, it is certainly not a bad showing to have a death-rate of 10 per one thousand, and from what I could learn the death-rate at Graniteville is about the same as it is in the mill communities in other parts of the State.

At Laurens, and other places, the death-rate is less in the mill communities than it is in the community at large, but I judge that this is due somewhat to the fact that the death-rate of the towns includes the negroes, whereas in the mill communities the death-rate is confined entirely to the white people.

At Laurens I found that the death-rate was 17 out of 1,250 operatives. Mr Meng, the superintendent, assured me that most of the seventeen deaths which had occurred during the year were among people who had just come into the mill and who had gone there sick.

It is a trite expression that the "chewing of the bag is the proof of the pudding," and so in cotton mill life it might be said that the proof of the life is the life itself. It did not occur to me to make any inquiries as to the longevity of any of the help until after I had gotten to Graniteville, when a suggestion was made to me that there were men actively at work in the mill who were 70 years of age, and I then made inquiry, and found in an off-hand way, without making any census, or going particularly into the matter, the following facts:

"Mr Cary Floyd, now a man of 70 years, has been working continuously in the cotton mill for forty-five years.

Mr W. H. Causey, now a man of 65, has been working continuously in the mill for forty years.

Mr T. Faulkner, 66 years of age, has been working in the cotton mill since he was a boy.

Mr M. J. Brewer went into the war between the States with the Graniteville military company, and after the war resumed his work in the mill, where he is still employed.

Mrs Prince has been working in the mill for more than a generation and has grandchildren at work in the mill.

Miss Sims has been working in the mill for about forty years.

These names were given to me off-hand by one of the employees, and afterwards, in conversation with Mr Luther Powell, he told me he had been continuously in the cotton mill for thirty-seven years, and he would not change his work if the best job in Graniteville were offered him.

At the Spartan Mills, where Mr Walter S. Montgomery has such a contented set of employees, I also found, in a casual way, that there are quite a number of employees who have been working since the mill started—12 years ago. Among these might be mentioned:

Messrs Wat Davis, J. C. Davis, J. B. Burnett, T. R. Pursey, J. Wat Dye, J. M Dye, (father, 60 years of age,) S. S. Gregory, and twenty-five or thirty others.

It would not, therefore, be a violent presumption to say that ordinary good health can be maintained in cotton factories where people can continue at their work for more than forty years. Illustrations of this sort could be given from any mill in the State.

August Kohn.

ARTICLE V.

How the Cotton Mills provide for the Education and Religious Training of the Children.

Something has already been said in these articles about what the cotton factories are doing for their "help." The managers of these properties realize that it will pay them to keep the help in a good, healthy condition, and provide means for the education of their operatives. It might seem that the cotton mill corporations are such thorough business institutions they would not be expected to put money into school houses out of their individual treasuries, in addition to having to pay their pro rata share of the taxes of the county or community in which they are located, but as a matter of fact the Comptroller General's books this year show that upon the 60 per cent value which is now the basis for taxation over \$20,000,000 of the taxpaying property of the State is represented by the cotton mills of the State. If the mills were only required to pay the three mill constitutional tax their share of the public school money would be very considerable, but they also pay special school levies wherever they are made.

In fact, in a number of communities--Lancaster among them--it was only possible by the building of a \$1,000,000 cotton mill that the taxable property was raised to such an aggregate value that it was possible to bond the town for the building of a modern and thoroughly equipped school building.

There are a number of cotton mills in the State that pay two and three thousand dollars each, on account of the three mill educational tax. The Anderson Cotton Mills, Olympia and Granby cotton mills, Pacolet, Pelzer, Piedmont and Spartanburg mills all pay over \$2,000 each towards the common education fund, and it is entirely safe to say that not one of these cotton mills has its school supported entirely, or even in part, out of the three mill constitutional tax, which they pay. There are a number of cotton mills in this State where the school is under the general management of the mill company, and where the school receives part of the mill funds back for the support of the school in the mill villages, but the most of the schools connected with the cotton mills are operated by the cotton mill. The buildings are erected at the sole expense of the mills and all of the teachers are provided at the expense of the mill corporations. It is no unusual thing for these schools to run nine months. In fact, practically all of the schools connected with the cotton mills do run for nine months, and at Anderson, Belton, Greenville, Pelzer, Piedmont and other points they run more than nine months. The average term of the schools connected with the mills is 8 1-10 months. For instance, last year, in a carefully prepared statement for sixty-five of the larger mills of the State, it was shown that the same cotton mills in addition to the three mill tax which they are required to pay actually added from their funds for school salaries and other expenses directly connected with the management of the schools more than \$27,000.

At the Laurens Mill the school expenses were over \$2,000; at the Olympia and Granby, over \$2,000; at Pelzer, over \$3,000; at the Spartan Mills over \$2,000; at the Pacolet Mills, \$1,000; at the Darlington Mills, \$1,350; at the Clifton, \$1,500, and at the Piedmont, \$1,000. And so all along the line! There were only 11 of these 65 mills from which figures were obtained, which made no direct contribution from the mill resources to the school fund. It may not be considered anything extraordinary to remark incidentally that there is more than \$75,000 of cotton mill capital in this State invested in school buildings, and twice that much in church buildings. In many instances the churches are receiving considerable donations annually from the mill communities, and I found in nearly every mill that I visited that the most cordial relations existed between the mills and the churches. If there are any who would prosecute this inquiry further they would find it interesting to ascertain what the cotton mills are actually doing for the education of those who are settled in the mill communities. About half the people in each of the mill communities work in the cotton mills. I have the figures from several of the mills as to the relative proportion of those who work in the mills and those who do not, and I find the average to be 54 per cent in the mills, as against 46 per cent outside. I am not able to give the exact number of the children who do go to school in the various mill communities, but at

Pelzer and Piedmont, for instance, there are over 600 children in attendance upon the schools; at Clifton more than 500; at Anderson, over 200; at Langley and the Courtenay Manufacturing Company, Olympia, Lockhart and others, more than 200 children each, and it is safe to say that there are at least 10,000 children in the schools connected with the cotton mills.

I found that in some places, although the cotton mills paid all the expenses of the schools, there was a desire to get into the city schools and wherever this spirit existed there was no resistance, and the children were allowed to go where they preferred. It is the desire of Mr Leroy Springs, and other cotton mill presidents, however, to have the children attend the schools of the community.

The great desire of the cotton mills is to keep the children engaged, so that they will not be idle and get into mischief, and at most of the cotton mills kindergartens are maintained for the younger children whose parents are often engaged in the mills.

At Laurens Mr Lucas maintains a splendid school system and already has an enrolment of 155. His school does not receive a copper from the county, and the enrolment is more than what might be expected from the total mill population and is larger than it is at Darlington, where Mr Lucas also has a school supported entirely out of the treasury of the cotton mill.

At Pelzer there is one of the handsomest school buildings in the State. It is a thorough, up-to-date school, with fourteen teachers and an attendance of 700. I believe I found here a better disposition to attend school than at any of the other mills of the State visited.

At Bennettsville there is an attendance of seventy-one upon the schools, and so it goes all along throughout the State.

It is not necessary to repeat details or it would be a pleasure to write about the splendid schools at Pacolet, Union, Piedmont, the Courtenay Manufacturing Company, at Greenville, and throughout the entire mill district of the State. It was pleasant to make inquiry in the State as to what the mills are doing in the way of educating their operatives, and I found, without exception, that the desire of all the cotton mills was to see the children of their communities educated, and, in fact, the mill officers are generally more anxious to have the children educated than are some of the parents. Some of the parents take the position that they had to do without an education and are making a living, and that their children can just as well do without one and get along as well as they. Of course, this is not the general rule. The children are not as ambitious as they are in many communities, especially in the Piedmont section. The mill officers insist upon the children attending school for at least a part of the session, and announce that they will not employ any child who has not attended school for at least a part of the year. While the people of the State are generally discussing the advisability of compulsory education, the cotton mills are doing what is more than mere talking—they are accomplishing what very many are arguing about.

At many of the mills there are libraries and lyceums, and it is no uncommon thing in the evening to see the operatives in these rooms reading current literature, and while the general opinion may be that they are reading strictly light matter, yet it was during one of my visits in the Piedmont that one of the young men, I think about 16 years old, asked for a copy of Edwin Arnold's "Light of Asia."

Superintendent Baker, at Lancaster, told me that he found the children of the mills were of good capacity, but said, what others had said, that the children were very irregular in their attendance. Some of the cotton mill presidents told me that they almost despaired of having the children attend the schools which were provided for them, although they refused them work. It might be well for those who are really in earnest in the study of this most serious question, to consider the most feasible plan of compelling the young children to attend the schools and not loaf about the streets, as I so often saw them doing in many places I visited.

A whole page might be written about the schools supported by the cotton mills and about the disposition of the mill officers to encourage education among their people, but it is needless to do so at this time, except to emphasize the point that the schools are there for the children if they will attend them, and that there are none who are doing, or are disposed to do, more for the education of the young children of this State. The cotton mills pay their taxes as everybody else does, and besides, employ hundreds of school teachers; providing magnificent school buildings and libraries and lyceums and other places of amusement. They would not do all this for their help if they were not really in earnest in their desire to have the children educated. If the parents were as solicitous about the education of their children as some of the mill officers are to have them educated, there would certainly be no cause for complaint about the lack of education among mill operatives. It is safe to say that the children have far better opportunities of education in the mill communities than they ever had at home. Most of the operatives are from the counties where the schools are not supported as they ought to be, and where they do not, and cannot run nine months or ten months in the year.

What are the cotton mills doing for the churches? Where a church is built they lend more than half of the amount necessary to erect the building, and at Pacolet \$5,000 has just been lent for the erection of a Baptist church. At Laurens and in every other mill town church sites have been given by the mill corporations and more than three-fourths of the money necessary to build the churches has been given by the mill corporations. In the various mill settlements parsonages are provided for the ministers and a part of the salaries is paid out of the general fund of the cotton mills.

I talked with the Rev Mr Fowler, who had been "located" at Laurens for a couple of years, in charge of the Methodist Church at that place. He told me he was very much gratified with his work there, and felt that a good work was being done by the ministers of his church among the cotton mill people. There was intense ambition on the part of some of his people to become educated. He told about a number of cotton mill operatives who gave as much as \$10 or \$12 a year for the support of the church, which was often more than men worth \$10,000 contributed. He said further that the cotton mill operatives, as a class, are good people; that they are disposed to do the right thing; that they are by nature a religious people, and are proud of keeping up their church connections.

I talked with a number of ministers at other places, and I found that they all agreed in saying that the mill help was as a rule moral, religious and disposed to do the right thing. At Graniteville I was told that two presiding elders of the Methodist Church—the Rev Messrs Hodges and Dickson—had made public statements that the congregations of the Methodist Church there compared most favorably with any they had seen in the State. Not only are they great church-goers, but they have an ambition to look well and spend more proportionately on dress than do other classes of people. I was told at a number of mill stores that the young women do not hesitate at all in buying hats that cost as much as \$10 each.

At Union the cotton mills have some of the handsomest churches that are to be found in the State, and the new Union Church, at Buffalo, is as fine a building as is to be found anywhere. This church was erected entirely at the expense of the cotton mill, and Mr Duncan, as other mill presidents, has been most generous in his contributions to the various churches. Mr Duncan told me that he experienced the same trouble that many other mill presidents experienced in not being able to have the children regularly attend the schools provided by the cotton mills. His school was owned and conducted entirely by the mill; has four teachers and an average enrolment of 150, and facilities for accommodating many more; but the children could not be made to stay in the school for any continuous period, and went in and out just as they pleased. In some of the cotton mills the disposition is that after the children get to be 12 years old the mills want them as help. At some of the mills this wish is regarded almost in the nature of an order that the child shall go to work; but there are instances of young men as old as 24 years who are now attending the mill school. No young man or woman, whatever his or her age, is excluded from the schools.

August Kohn.

ARTICLE VI.

A wide difference of Opinion among the Manufacturers as to the Wisdom of Legislation—the Labor Agitator and Outside Interests at the bottom of the present Movement.

For years the General Assembly of South Carolina has been discussing the question of child labor. Up to this time no legislation has been enacted. I have no doubt that at the approaching session of the Assembly other child labor propositions will be presented. Nothing that I have written on the subject has been intended to suggest to the Legislature what it ought, or ought not, to do. All that I have intended was to present certain facts and figures that might throw some light on the subject.

The very natural question is, why are the cotton mills opposing child labor legislation, if it is true, as said, that they are generally disposed not to employ children under 12 years of age, and are gradually weeding all children out of the mills?

Cotton mill presidents themselves report that they do not employ four children under 12 years of age out of every one hundred operatives. It can, therefore, be seen that it does not amount to so very much with them, in the actual number of their operatives, whether such a law be passed or not. They do contend, however, that it amounts to very much more to them than the elimination of the help itself, because such legislation would be a disturbing factor.

The owners and operatives of the cotton mills are now on the most amicable terms. They are not bothering about labor unions, although the labor union has frequently sent representatives from the New England States to organize the operatives here, but have met with little or no success.

What the cotton mill people are afraid of is the passage of any law dealing especially with cotton mills which might lead to other legislation. They contend that there is no reason why the cotton mills, which have done so much for the industrial development of the State, should be singled out and specialized in hostile legislation. They think that if there is to be any restriction as to labor, it should be made to apply to all classes of labor, and then they would have no reason to complain. But they do not wish to have any sops thrown to the labor agitators, who would necessarily take courage at this initial victory, or, at least, they would claim it to be such.

The cotton mill presidents realize that there are a great many people who are honestly in favor of some child labor legislation: that they are in earnest and mean well, but, at the same time, they do not appreciate or realize the possible danger to the State in such legislation, and they fear that these people are allowing themselves to be carried away by sentiment.

At the recent session of the General Assembly in Georgia a number of addresses were made before the committee on education, to which the bill proposing a child labor law was referred, and all of the speeches before that committee were to the effect that the child labor bill would be the beginning of labor legislation and would surely be followed by other legislation; the entering wedge would be followed by the glut; they urged that the invariable experience was that, where labor agitators gained even a partial victory, they followed it up with something that would be hurtful. It was shown at this hearing that Mrs Irene Ashby Macfayden and other agitators, who have been in the South and who have been writing outrageous articles about the labor conditions in South Carolina, have been sent here at the expense of the labor union to do this work. It was shown that Mrs Macfayden had been paid by Mr Gompers, of the Labor Union, for work which she had done, presumably in connection with the child labor agitation, and that her articles in the Independent and other newspapers were possibly influenced by the funds from the labor unions of the North and East. It was also shown that Mr Hibbard was sent to

Augusta by the New England cotton spinners to take charge of and agitate the strike at that place. It was further shown that Mr Robert Howard, of the Spinners' Union, came from Fall River, Mass, for the purpose of trying to arouse interest in the child labor question and, so all along the line, it was clearly proved and emphasized that the chief backing of this agitation for child labor legislation has come from the labor organizations of the New England cotton mills and the labor organizations generally. Their right to this course is not questioned. It is admitted that a considerable share of the discussion has been by honest and sincere people, but it is claimed that the labor agitators are taking advantage of what these disinterested and honest persons are doing.

There are many opinions among the cotton mill presidents of South Carolina as to what is the best course to pursue, in view of this agitation. And it will be interesting to explain some of the positions that are taken. A good number of the cotton mill presidents insist that it would be suicidal to allow any child labor legislation to be enacted without an earnest protest, and that it is their duty to themselves and their State to insist upon the defeat of any such legislation, because of the injury it would work to the mills and the operative classes. I will say here that presidents of some of the largest mills in the State are of this opinion, and these same mills do not employ children under 12 years of age if they know it.

On the other hand, there are cotton mill presidents who take the position that the State of South Carolina, in particular, has been held up to the outside world as a State where child life is not protected, and that the State has been placed in a bad light; and it would probably be just as well to stop the agitation and, as they say, "concede something to sentiment." Their idea is that it would be well to compromise, provided they can do so upon a reasonable basis, and in that way placate sentiment and stop the agitation, which is neither doing the State nor the mills any good. They say that to pass a child labor law would, for a considerable time at least, be a damper upon new cotton mills; that it would not stop to any extent the extension of plans now in operation or the building of some mills, but it would almost certainly prevent any decided influx in this State of outside capital or the building of any very large new cotton mills, for a while at least. They said that they would be willing to compromise upon a reasonable basis, something like this:

A bill which would, from June, 1902, to June 1903, prohibit the employment of any child under 11 years of age.

From June, 1904, to June, 1905, no child under 12 years of age shall be employed in any cotton mill.

That no child under 12 years of age, now or at any time, shall be employed in the cotton mills at night.

That no child after June, 1905, shall be employed in the cotton mills who cannot show a certificate that he has attended school for a certain time during the preceding years; the time and the term to be attended each year to be fixed by the General Assembly.

That children under 10 years of age, or perhaps older, shall be allowed to work in the mills in the vacation season only.

They say that this would be a concession to get rid of the whole agitation, but they do not believe it would be for the good of the State to have any legislation.

Then there are others who insist that the only way of settling the matter is to enforce compulsory education, and by simply passing a compulsory education law which would require the children to be in school they would be forced out of the cotton mills. In a word, a child cannot be in the cotton mill and attending school at the same time, and if the child attend school for a certain term of months each year it will do no harm to work in the cotton mill the remaining months of the year that he is not compelled to attend school. The mills will not use children who are too young or small to be profitable.

This is met by the chronic objection that compulsory education would help to educate the negro. This position is met simply and reasonably by the suggestion that no child under a certain age is to be allowed to work in a cotton mill unless he can show a certificate from an authorized teacher that he has attended school for a certain term of months during the year, and, as only white children would apply to the cotton mills for work, they would be the only ones that would get or need these certificates showing that they had attended school for the period fixed for them by law. Under this certificate plan it is contended that the chief objection to the compulsory education scheme is obviated.

Then there are others still who hold that the child labor agitation is largely in the hands of politicians, although they concede that there are a few who are earnest and sincere in their advocacy of labor legislation. The people who will be most affected by the passage of such legislation are the parents of the children in the mills, the operatives and not the owners, and it is argued that the sooner the operatives are made to see that this talk of child labor is no help to them, but that a child labor law would be a serious injury if they wish to make money out of their

children, the better. It is urged that there is no use in the mill presidents worrying themselves about the thing, that the best way is to sit down and let the Legislature do whatever it pleases, and the operatives will be the first to discover how pretended is the friendship pressed upon them. A man and his family are paid for what they do and no more; 90 per cent of the work of the cotton mills is piece work, and if piece work is not done the cotton mills will not have to pay for it. The Legislature cannot fix any scale of wages, and the cotton mills cannot afford to pay any more than they are now paying. Any legislation that would limit or restrict the amount of piece work that can be done by an individual operative or his family simply takes that much money out of the family pocket, and the sooner the operative, the Legislature and others find out that the mills are not affected by this legislation nearly so much as the operatives, the better it will be.

The cotton mill folks say that they are better able now to deal with the question than they have been, and this can be readily understood, when it is shown that twelve years ago there were only 332,784 spindles in South Carolina and to-day there are over 2,500,000. This phenomenal increase in the number of spindles in twelve years necessitated an extraordinary demand for labor, and everybody who could be used as an operative had to be rushed to the mills. It was during this unusual period of development that the children were employed in mill work. The mills had to take whatever help they could get. The increase in spindles is now normal and the help that was a few years ago crude and rough is now better trained and the cotton mills are adjusting themselves to the changed conditions. The employment of any class of help necessary a few years ago on account of the phenomenal growth of the industry is not now necessary.

There are a great many people who think that South Carolina has done a great deal for its cotton mills, but they are apt to forget what the cotton mills have done for the State. For example, property in the vicinity of the mills has trebled in value, and the cotton mills and railroads of South Carolina pay more than one-fourth of the total taxes that are paid in the State. More than one-tenth of the taxes is paid by the cotton mills alone.

Where will the New England owners of the future cotton mills establish their mills? Practically all the cotton mills that have been established by New England owners in the South have gone to other States, and most of them have gone to Alabama. The natural inquiry is, why have these mills gone to Alabama?

First, because Alabama at one stroke wiped off the statute book every Act that related to the limitation of labor or that affected the employment of labor in connection with the cotton mills.

It provided for a ten years' tax exemption of all cotton mill property.

It is next door to the coal supply.

It is in the very heart of the cotton supply.

South Carolina, on the other hand, has not repealed any legislation affecting the cotton mills, but is threatening at all times to pass such legislation.

South Carolina has not passed a ten years' tax exemption for manufacturing enterprises, that they may seek to locate here.

South Carolina has to pay the maximum amount of freight upon its coal supply.

South Carolina gets more than one-third of its cotton supply, used in the cotton mills of South Carolina, from Alabama and other States west of Alabama.

The Georgia Legislature at its recent session, and at previous sessions, refused to pass, or even to seriously consider, a child labor bill.

Other and adjoining States have no child labor statutes.

More than one-third of the cotton used in the mills of this State is shipped to South Carolina. The cotton mills of South Carolina in 1902 consumed 614,650 bales of cotton. The crop made in this State was 880,000 and yet, with more than enough cotton to supply the home demand, over 225,000 bales of cotton were brought into South Carolina and consumed by the cotton mills of this State.

The cotton mills use practically all of the cotton that is grown north of Columbia and they use a considerable part of that grown south of Columbia. The bulk of the cotton that is brought into this State is from Alabama and Mississippi.

It is said to have a longer staple than the cotton grown in South Carolina. Of course the cotton mills of South Carolina are run for the money there is in them, and if they could buy the South Carolina cotton as cheap as that of Alabama and it would answer their purpose as well they would buy it here, because there is not a bit of sentiment in cotton buying. It is bought where what is wanted can be had cheapest.

Many people are of the opinion that the cotton mills of South Carolina are gold mines. They have been making money and a good many of them are making money now, but nothing like what they made in former years. The cotton mills that are working on the finer grades of goods are those that are to-day most fortunate; and the mills which are confining themselves to the heavier grades of goods are either pegging along in the hope of making money in the future or are at a standstill, so

far as money making is concerned—this is somewhat surprising, but it is a fact all the same.

There are from 25,000 to 50,000 bales of manufactured cloth goods, worth, say, \$40 per bale, now in storage, belonging to the various mills of this State. They have not been sold simply because there is no demand for this class of goods. Chinese trade is almost at a standstill, and the cotton mills that are not carrying out old contracts made with Chinese merchants were not able to dispose of goods made for export trade. It might be asked why this condition exists? It is known that silver has depreciated in value, and that means it costs the Chinese merchant more silver to get his bankable exchange. This increased cost of foreign exchange simply reduces the purchasing power of the Chinese silver, and when the Chinaman's silver will not buy a given quantity of cloth goods he has no use for the goods. In other words, the Chinese merchant cannot use manufactured goods unless he can get them inside of $5\frac{1}{2}$ cents a yard, and if his exchange and the depreciation in the value of silver makes his goods cost more than that he cannot use them, and that stops the demand for that class of export goods. The consensus of opinion is that the Chinese trade is at an absolute standstill, and the mills are changing to other goods.

On the finer grades of goods the demand is rather slack, and the mills are not selling their product as rapidly as they would like, and the price of cotton is not as low as the mills would like it to be, to make the showing they formerly made.

Of course this does not mean that cotton mills will not be built nor pay, because most of the cotton mill people of this State have gotten the momentum of mill building and they feel that, while they may not make as much money as they have done heretofore, their salvation lies in a multiplicity of spindles, and that a 100,000 spindle mill can be operated with the same executive force as a 10,000 spindle mill.

August Kohn.

ARTICLE VII.

Why do so many Cotton Mill Operatives have sallow Complexions?—Is it Malaria or Uncinariasis?—Poorly cooked food probably the cause of it—What the Mill Owners do for the Health of their people.

There are a great many people persons who think that the sallow and pale complexion, which so many mill operatives have, is the result of their work. Just before I started on my trip of investigation I read an article written by a young woman who visited the Columbia cotton mills and who made much ado about the sallow complexion of the mill help. In my visits to the various cotton mills I found a number of men and women, boys and girls, who did have a pale, sallow look, and I tried to find out why. It is not confined to the children. There are men and women who have the same look, and, while the confining work of the cotton mills may, to some extent, account for it, there is other cause for it. Working side by side with the pale, sallow-looking operatives in many of the mills are operatives who are just as bright and rosy-cheeked and full-blooded as any that can be found in this State. It is not an uncommon thing to go into a spinning room, or any other department of the mills and find at one end of the frame a pale, yellowish-looking child, and at the other end of the same frame a bright, rosy-cheeked child. The complexion is not altogether the result of mill life. A census would show that there are more pink-cheeked children than pale in the mills. There are many opinions on the subject. Some charge the complexion to malaria; others insist that it is prenatal. Others think that it is climatic, and others that it is entirely due to the cotton mill hands' mode of living and poorly prepared food. One man, who had been looking into the question very carefully, told me that it was the "hook worm." I do not pretend to say what it is or why it is, but it is certain that there are to be found in the sand hills of Richland, Lancaster, and Chesterfield and in the mountainous sections of this State and North Carolina, men, women and children with just the same complexion as is found among the operatives of any mill in South Carolina.

If some one can find out why so many people who have never been inside of a cotton mill have the "cotton mill color," it will be practicable to account for the color of the cotton mill people.

Over in Lancaster I talked with Mr Springs on the subject, and he told me that the pale, saffron-colored operatives of his mill came there that way, and he would make me a wager that he could tell exactly where every one in the mill came from. We went to the mill at the noon hour, and every child that went in we stopped. Those who were rosy colored and bright-looking generally came from Lancaster County and from prosperous farms, and without even asking the children where they came from he recognized those with the pale, yellow skins that they came from eastern Lancaster and Chesterfield County, and this complexion seemed to be quite common with that section of the country. Some of them were free to admit that they had been clay-eaters before they were employed in the cotton mills.

This mill, situated as it is, furnishes a good field for the study of this question. Here will be found the Beckham girls, bright, vivacious young women, making a good living, and all of them with the brightest complexion, and in the same room other young women not near so rosy-cheeked or healthy-looking. Yet the Beckham girls have been in the mill longer than those who are pale. In this mill there is Miss Mary Snipes, formerly of Chester County. She has as much color as would be found in a painted picture; and by her side, in striking contrast, is Miss Nettie Nyme; and from the same county as Miss Nettie Nyme is Will Kennington, who has plenty of color. Miss Ada Nye, at work in this mill, also has color and brightness of complexion, and if there were to be a beauty show, it would be hard to find a better en-

try than Miss Carrie Gale, who went into the cotton mill at Lancaster from her home, about eight miles below Lancaster, and who has ideal rosy cheeks, although she has been working in the cotton mill for a number of years. Theodore Starnes, who has been in the mill for two years, has a bright color, and right by him is a young fellow, named Robinson, who is pale and sallow and uses tobacco. And so, in this way, I could have gone all through the mill and found one person who had worked in the mill for a number of years, who had bright, rosy complexion, and by his or her side another, who had been in the mill perhaps just as long, with a most pronounced sallow complexion. And then, again, I could find mill help that had just lately come there from the farms, with skins as pallid, or more so, than those who had been there for years.

What I found at Lancaster was the case at a number of other places. While going over to Graniteville I passed a little place called Summit, and there, on a lumber pile, standing out in the open air, was a little boy, probably 15 years old, miles away from a cotton mill, who looked pale and sallow and saffron-colored, more so than any boy I had seen in any cotton mill in South Carolina; and yet, in all likelihood, this boy had never seen the doors of a cotton mill.

It is a mistake directly to charge the cotton mills with being the cause of the complexion of their operatives. They have no more to do with the complexion of their operatives than the farms have to do with the complexion of the people who work on them.

It would be an excellent thing to have somebody go to the various cotton mill communities and teach the people how to cook properly. They get the very best food, but do not know how to prepare it. In some of the homes I saw food horribly sacrificed. The merchants all say that the operatives buy the best flour and provisions of all kinds; but they do not know how to prepare it. If somebody, who wanted to do a true charity, would instruct these people how to cook, they would be doing them a kindness that would have good results.

One of the cotton mill officers told me that he attached so much importance to the question of properly prepared food that he was almost tempted to build a large dining hall, where the operatives could get their dinner, at least during working hours, and then he would know that they would have nourishing soups and properly prepared meats once a day.

The hook worm theory is entirely new, and I do not know anything about it, but, as it may be a matter of general interest, I quote the following from the proceedings of the National Sanitary Conference, at its recent meeting in Washington:

"The crusade against child labor in the South, Dr Stiles declared, was due indirectly to the general presence of this disease, and he made the remarkable statement that children who came from the country districts to work in the mills became generally greatly improved as a result of the better sanitary conditions in the cities and the better facilities for the cure of the disease.

"As regards the age of children in the mills, Dr Stiles said that reformers who went through the cotton factories and other places in the Southern States where such labor was employed were generally deceived regarding the ages of these minor employees, one of the characteristics of the disease being that it stunted not only the mental development, but the physical growth as well, and made men and women of 20 to 23 years of age seem only about 14 to 16.

"In describing the symptoms of the disease, Dr Stiles asserted that it created an abnormal appetite for different things in individual cases, and that the "dirt eaters" were almost all sufferers from it. The disease itself, he asserted, was due, not to the habit of eating dirt, as some physicians have claimed, but that, reversely, the habit itself is due to the disease. The famous 'pickle eaters' of North Carolina were also sufferers from the disease, and their abnormal and peculiar appetite was the result of a certain stage of the malady.

"Dr Stiles declared that the disease was susceptible of cure, and he urged that information concerning it should be scattered broadcast so that cures might be effected. A number of South American delegates expressed their belief that such a disease existed in certain South American countries and was responsible for the backward condition of the people there. They promised thoroughly to investigate the subject on their return to their respective countries.

"Resolutions were adopted recommending that the international sanitary bureau urge each republic to promptly and regularly transmit to the international sanitary bureau at Washington all data of every character relative to the sanitary condition of their respective ports and territories, and to furnish said bureau every opportunity and aid for a thorough, careful and scientific study and investigation of any outbreaks of pestilential diseases which may occur within the territory of any of the said republics."

It is worth noting that there is a liberal amount of snuff taken by the operatives. This habit was brought into the mills by the operatives from their homes. Mill officers and superintendents have told me that fully 50 per cent of the operatives use snuff. In addition to using snuff a great many chew tobacco.

As I have already said, the mill owners do everything that is within reason to keep the mill settlements in a perfect sanitary condition, and maintain a large force of hands for the purpose of cleaning up the premises. In most of the mill villages there is a thorough system of drainage, sewerage and water-works; in fact, very much better than very many of these same people had been accustomed to at their homes.

Most of us have read of and know something of the homes of the mill help, but in my trip through the State I took occasion, in every town I visited, to go to the homes of these people themselves. It has been my good fortune in life to visit the homes of the tenant classes in various counties, and it will not be denied by anyone, who is informed on the subject, that the cotton factories generally provide better homes for the people they employ than the same people had before they went to the mills.

In talking with a gentleman in Spartanburg on this very same question, he told me that some time ago there was trouble about smallpox in the county. Smallpox broke out in the mill community, and the physician in charge did not experience any exceptional difficulty in the handling of the cases, and was quite successful in exterminating the disease. Later on smallpox broke out on the farm of one of the largest property owners in the county, and it became necessary for the physician in charge, Dr Little, to disinfect the homes of the people where smallpox existed. The physician reported that it was impossible for him to disinfect the houses, simply because none of them was tight enough to hold the disinfectant long enough indoors to do any good. This is merely suggestive.

The mill houses are well built and they are generally provided with water-works and sewerage. I should judge that the average room in the operatives' houses is 15 by 15. It is the rule in most of the mills to have the villages in close proximity to the mill proper, so that as little time as possible may be lost in going from the homes of the working people to the place where they work, and I find that in very few cases does the maximum distance exceed a five minutes' walk.

In most of the homes the rooms are either lathed and plastered, or ceiled, and while there may be some houses that are not plastered or ceiled, I do not find them.

The mill operatives have money and they do not hesitate to spend it. It is no unusual thing to find their homes provided with all the modern conveniences and most of them invest soon after moving to the mill in a sewing machine, nice furniture and, perhaps, an organ. The greatest temptation that I was able to find among the mill operatives was the buying of enlarged pictures which they use to decorate their homes. There are, of course, some homes among the operatives that are slovenly and poorly kept, and I fancy that these people were just as careless in their mode of living on the farms as they now are in the mill communities. As a general thing they have clean homes, clean beds and bed linen; homes that are decorated with pictures, a sewing machine in one corner, a stand of books perhaps in another, a gay rug or two on the floor, and, in the more pretentious homes, almost invariably, lace curtains at the parlor windows. Altogether, their homes give evidence of more than ordinary prosperity, and certainly they are, as a general thing, better provided with comforts than are the homes of the tenant classes in the rural parts of South Carolina, from which most of these operatives come. I wish everyone could read the lectures of Walter H. Page, recently published in a volume, called "The Building of Old Commonwealths," in which is given a picture of the poorer classes in North Carolina, who are very like our people of the same condition.

As a general thing cotton mills provide all of the homes of their operatives at a nominal rent. In the New England States I understand that the cotton mills do not provide homes for their operatives, and all the operatives have to rent homes in the cities at large, and that makes the rents much higher.

The cotton mills of South Carolina do not undertake to make any money whatsoever out of their operatives in the way of rents, and from what I was able to gather the idea seemed to be to get 6 per cent on the money invested, which would be enough to pay for taxes and ordinary repairs and interest.

At some of the mills a flat rate of \$1 a house is charged. This is the case at Bennettsville and other mills in the Pee-Dee section.

At Graniteville the charge is 94 cents every two weeks for a three-room house; \$2 every two weeks for a seven-room house. In the Piedmont section the rule seems to be to charge 50 cents a room, while at some of the mills the average price is 50 cents per room. To equalize it 60 cents per room is charged for the rooms nearest to the cotton mills.

The cotton mill corporations keep the homes in repair, and it is no uncommon thing to spend considerable in repairs, as was the case recently with Capt Courtenay, who spent \$3,000 in repairing the already excellent homes at Newry. As I have already said, the mill owners appreciate the fact that they must do everything in reason for the comfort and convenience of their help to make them satisfied, and to induce them to remain, because there are other mills, not only in this State, but in other States, where their labor is in demand. If the operatives wish, they have ample

ground at their homes in which to make small vegetable and flower gardens. At some of the mills prizes are offered for the neatest flower gardens, and there is a disposition to cultivate both flowers and vegetables, but the tendency is not as marked as it might be. In some cases some of the most enterprising tenants get the use of two or three gardens and cultivate them in truck, selling the products to their neighbors. In several of the mill communities the cotton mills have developed a considerable truck business, as the operatives are liberal buyers.

August Kohn.

ARTICLE VIII.

Habits of Thrift among the Mill Operatives—Many of them Laying by Something for a Rainy Day—Fine Men who made their start in the Cotton Mill.

It has been admitted generally that the ownership of property helps to make good citizens. Some contend that the life of the cotton mill operative is not conducive to good citizenship. Is this true? Those who go into the mills are to a large extent of the same class and condition as many of the voters in South Carolina who have not gone to the mills and, generally speaking, are honest and upright. The cotton mills are doing much for the education of the youth and, in addition, they are giving the operatives, in return for their labor, "cash money," with which they may acquire homes, the possession of which promotes good citizenship.

It is a fact that the most prosperous of our people do not find their way into the cotton mills. If they had bank accounts, or good paying positions, or were making money on the farms, they would not have gone into the cotton mills. They went in this sort of service to make a certain living; in many instances, to get the money with which to live and to have the facilities for educating their children. In a great many cases they have saved money with which to buy homes, and farms, and to lift mortgages, but they have continued to work in the cotton mills. A large number of these people continue to plod along in the cotton mills, and many of them are saving money. If the habit of saving could be instilled into the 40,000 people who are working in the cotton mills, and who represent more than 100,000 people associated with them, the State would be far better off than it is to-day. It is not that these factory operatives do not make money, out of which they can save some part, but it is just the same as it is with other people, they have not the saving habit. There may be half a dozen clerks in a store, each of whom is making \$50 a month; one of that number may have a family, yet, as matter of fact, he actually saves more money than any one of the five clerks in the same store who has no family. It just seems to be the disposition of some people to save money and others not to do so, and it is no evidence of the fact that sufficient money is not made out of which to save because some people do not save it.

I do not think that there is a mill community in the State where some of the operatives are not saving money. At almost every mill, so far as I have been able to learn, there are some of the operatives who have paid debts contracted while they lived on the farm. There is not a mill community of any size that I know of where some of the operatives are not saving money and putting it to their credit in the savings bank. At Pelzer, for example, Capt Smyth told me that a large part of \$100,000 deposited at the Chicora Savings Bank is the earnings of the mill operatives of that community, and at almost all of the other mills in the State there is saving of some sort, and in many places banks are being organized.

At Graniteville a bank has recently been established, and I am informed that more than half of the stock has been taken and paid for by the operatives.

At Laurens there are operatives who own cotton mill stock and bank stock, and some of them have taken as much as \$2,000 in stock in a recently established cotton mill at that place. These are merely instances to show what has been done and what is being done every day, and whoever contends that the cotton mill operatives of this State are not saving money simply does not know what he is talking about. On the other hand, it must be said that with all their good qualities the mill operatives are extravagant as a class, and that they spend more money in proportion to what they get a day than probably any other class of people.

One form of extravagance on the part of the mill operative is the "moving habit." It is said that as many as one-third of the operatives are nomadic and constantly keep moving from place to place, spending money moving about and in establishing themselves.

I can think of no better illustration of the fact that our cotton mill people are as good as any other class of citizens that we have; are, in fact "the salt of the earth," than to cite some practical examples of what one mill community has done—Graniteville—in the way of development of its citizenship. This is not a "parade mill." There are many mills in the State as good as the Graniteville Mill, and dozens and dozens of mills in the State that pay as much money as the Graniteville Mill does in salaries. One of the best citizens of that community gave me, with a great deal of pride, from memory, a list of some of the men to whom Graniteville points with pride and all of whom at some time in their lives were operatives in the Graniteville Mill.

Mr James E. Cook, a well-known merchant, worth fully \$40,000.

Mr James L. Quinby, one of the largest merchants in Aiken County.

Mr C. K. Henderson, one of the most prosperous merchants at Aiken.

Mr F. B. Henderson, president of the People's Bank, at Aiken.

Mr O. C. Jordan, former member of the House of Representatives and State Senator from Aiken County.

Mr W. M. Jordan, now Master in Equity, formerly clerk of Court of Aiken County.

Mr P. F. Turner, former sheriff of Aiken County.

Mr J. A. M. Gardner, now county treasurer of Aiken County.

Major Charles F. Hard, general agent of the Continental Fire Insurance Company.

Judge James E. Senn, Judge of Courts, Birmingham, Ala.

Mr H. D. Wheat, president of the Gaffney Manufacturing Company.

Mr Peter Walker, a prosperous merchant at Graniteville.

The Rev James Walker, minister of the Baptist Church.

Dr J. U. Stodhart, physician at Graniteville.

Dr J. B. McMillan, physician at Graniteville.

Mr John B. Cloy, attorney-at-law, Aiken, S. C.

Mr George H. Howard, a prosperous merchant at Graniteville.

The Rev J. D. Shealy, minister of the Lutheran Church.

This is, of course, only a partial list, and the names of about twenty-five superintendents of cotton mills in various parts of the South might be credited to this one plant, as well as the names of merchants who have been scattered over this and other States, but this is a list sufficient for the lesson it is intended to point.

At Graniteville there are somewhat peculiar conditions, as the mill now owns 14,000 acres of land, and there as in other mill districts, the disposition of the mill owners is not to sell any part of the property, and, consequently, the operatives have not, as a general thing, acquired homes, although I find that in a great many instances they have bought property adjoining the mill and have invested in farming lands. Considering the fact that Graniteville has never sold outright any of its lands, it is remarkable that so many of the operatives there have in the course of time acquired homes nearby, and I might say that in the one settlement alone known as West Graniteville the following operatives have bought homes which they now own: Messrs Marion Brewer, James Williams, A. C. Powell, Mrs Prince, Mrs F. H. Reddy, Mrs Napper, Mrs Weathersbee, John Hester, William M. Martin, Mrs A. Perdue, James Bryan, F. P. Powell, Benjamin Boobee, Mrs Ellen Timmerman, W. E. Arthur, C. F. Beufort, Mrs Stanley, J. M. McMillan, T. Faulkner, Mrs Timmerman, No 2; James E. Coursey, W. H. Coursey.

This does not include a number of property-holders in Madison, which is another community adjoining Graniteville.

At Laurens I found that fifteen operatives, in what might be known as a comparatively young cotton mill, owned property around the mill community. Such is the case at almost every mill, and what can be done by these operatives can just as easily be done by others, if they be so inclined, and as is the case the world over—it is more the man than the opportunity.

If anyone were to look over the pay-rolls of any of the cotton mills, types of which have been given in one of my previous articles, it would be seen that it is altogether possible for these operatives to save money and to invest it in some permanent form.

There are in most mills what are known as "Martins"—that describes the operatives who farm during the spring and summer and work in the mills during the winter season. Then there are a great many in the mills who own small farms, or who have acquired a few acres of land since they went into the mills. These folks almost invariably continue their land holdings and hold their positions in the mills, and expect when they are old and worn-out to return to the pleasant life on the farm, but they put off the change from year to year.

August Kohn.

ARTICLE IX.

The number of Children employed in the Mills and the kind of Work they do.

A great deal has been said and written about the employment of children under 12 years of age in the cotton factories. It is true, as I have said, that children under 12 years of age are employed in the cotton factories, but the disposition, beyond question, is to eliminate the children under 12 years of age from labor in the mills. This is due, in some measure, to the sentiment against so-called "child labor," whether that sentiment be with or without cause, and to the fact that experience has proved that child labor is not profitable. It is worth repeating that 90 per cent of the work in the cotton mills is done on the piece basis, and it will make very little difference to the mill owners whether this work, which is paid for by the piece, is done by a child or a full-grown man or woman. In the New England mills this same class of work is done by men and women because there is a disposition there to keep the operatives in certain departments, and not to follow what is the custom in this State—the promotion of the help from the spinning to the weaving room. By keeping the help in one room it is argued that the operator becomes more expert and can make more money per day, simply because of his ability to do more piece work in the same time. The other day the Lancaster Cotton Mills advertised in the county newspapers as follows:

"The Lancaster Cotton Mills has employment to offer to two hundred and fifty families in the new mill to be in operation in January, 1903, and will teach beginners in the old mill until they are ready for work in the new mill. Employment for boys and girls from 12 years up. Good wages; prompt pay; comfortable houses at reasonable rent. (The rent beginning after able to earn wages.) Good drinking water, and a good school for small children to attend on the place. We prefer home people, if they want the employment, and will give them the opportunity and help of learning. For further particulars apply to or write to C. B. Skipper, Superintendent."

This only goes to show that the desire of the mill managers is to employ people from 12 years of age and up. In a great many cases there is abundant reason for children who are really not wanted in the mills being there. They are the dependents of widowed mothers and oftentimes are without parents. In some cases the mill authorities, although not inclined to give employment to these youngsters, feel that it is a charity to do so in order to provide means of their making a livelihood.

Of course, it will be said that these rare exceptions are noted to justify the employment of children in the cotton mills. Such is not my intention, surely. The fact is noted because I found in a good many of the cotton mills that the children were taken in under just such appealing circumstances. I also found that in many instances parents wilfully misstated the age of their children in order that they might get them in the mill. This habit of lying about the ages of children to get them into the mills is oftentimes shameful. The parents insist that their children are 12 years of age or older, and if the mill superintendent questions the statement the head of the family threatens to take the whole party to another less critical mill.

By way of illustration: I was talking to Capt Courtenay about this matter and he told me that his purpose was not to employ children under 12 years of age in the cotton mill. One day he was sitting on his front piazza, when he saw three little children going by, who had evidently come out of the cotton mill. He called them up, and asked if they had been working in the cotton mill, and two of them told him that they were employed there. He judged from their appearance that they were under 12 years of age. He told them that he would like to see their mother. The next day he was sitting in his office when a woman came and asked him if he wished to see her. He remembered the incident of the children and asked her why she al-

lowed her children to work in the cotton mill when they were so young. With tears in her eyes she said that her husband was sick with cancer and had been unable to work for a long while, and that she had to give him almost her entire attention. She went on to say that the two little children he was inquiring about were her sole support, and that she did not wish to be an object of charity, and, rather than solicit or accept it, she thought it better to have her children work in the mill and furnish the means of a livelihood for their sick father and herself. Capt Courtenay told the woman he had nothing further to say. It is such cases as these which can be found in a number of the cotton mills of this State, which explain the presence of some children in the mills.

It does not, however, excuse some parents, who insist on living at the expense of their children, and if there were any way that the laws of this State could make parents always do the right thing by their offspring it would be all right to enact laws for the regulation of parents. Exactly how laws can be made which will make parents of all classes thoughtful of the welfare of their children is quite another subject.

Last July the Tradesman, a newspaper devoted to the industrial interests of the South, published at Chattanooga, sent a special representative to inquire into the child labor question in this State. This representative visited a number of the cotton mills and undertook, by correspondence and otherwise, to find out how many children under 12 years of age were employed in the cotton mills of South Carolina. He published the result of his investigations, and made a report of sixty-one out of the one hundred and twenty-five cotton mills in South Carolina. Practically all of the larger cotton mills in the State reported, including such mills as the Spartan, Pelzer, Pacolet, Piedmont, Olympia, Graniteville, Belton, Eureka, Darlington, Granby, Gaffney and, in fact, all of the larger mills. These sixty-one mills reported that out of the 26,826 operatives they employed, 976 were children under 12 years of age, or, in other words, that there are not four operatives out of every one hundred in the cotton mills of South Carolina who are under 12 years of age. I do not mean to say that this statement—of 976 out of 26,826 operatives being under 12—is correct, nor do I mean to impeach its correctness, because the statement is absolutely upon the authority of the cotton mill presidents themselves, and I believe that what they have said is entirely correct. What is reported of these sixty-one cotton mills may be taken for granted to be approximately true of the other sixty-one cotton mills in South Carolina. I do not think that, when the facts are sifted down to the bottom, and it is shown that only four out of every one hundred employees of the cotton mills are under 12 years of age, there is any great occasion for excitement.

In a hearing before a Legislative committee it was stated that very many more than 4 per cent of the operatives were children under 12. This statement was questioned at the time, and the very mill men who then made the off-handed statement indicating a larger percentage, went home and took a census of their mills and were surprised to find very many less children under 12 in the mills than they had supposed before making a careful inquiry. There may be more than 4 or 5 per cent of children under 12 in the South Carolina mills, but I do not believe the actual number will run as high as 10 per cent. Then why this opposition to taking out these few from the mills, some will ask. This I will undertake to explain from the mill man's side later on, but the chief reasons are:

1. The mill folks regard this as merely the entering wedge of legislation that must in time injure the mills. The child labor proposition they regard as the wedge to be followed by the glut—labor inspectors, hours, etc, etc.

2. The operatives and owners are getting along peacefully and happily, and such legislation, they argue, will only tend to jar the pleasant relationship.

3. The real backers, it is urged, of this legislation and agitators are paid representatives from the New England mills and labor unions; excepting the few who are in earnest and who are sincere in pushing an idea.

4. Such legislation will tend to take operatives, with large families, now so much in demand, into other and adjoining States, where there are no laws as to child labor—Georgia, North Carolina or Alabama.

5. The mill officers are in good faith trying to adjust this matter themselves and they are doing very much for the advancement of the operatives and feel that they ought to be left alone and not be singled out for legislation, which, in their opinion, can do no good.

As matter of fact, it is a very hard matter to get at the ages of the children in the mills. Instead of passing a law requiring the registration of births and marriages, some law-makers have undertaken to get at the thing backwards, and as any sensible man can see, there is no way to get at the correct ages of the children except through their parents, and if the parents disposed to falsify there is no way of stopping it, because there is no official record of the date of the birth of any child.

There is no disguising the fact that the disposition on the part of parents is to advance the ages of their children, and I observed that quite a number of children,

who were probably 10 years old, stated that they were 12 years of age, and also a number who were probably 14 insisted that they were 16. I could not understand this spirit, except that there was a decided disposition to appear older.

Wherever a child is under 12 years of age the cotton mill folks make no secret of such employment, and where the child is over 12 years of age he usually appears to think it best to report that he is older. I endeavored in many cases to get at the ages of the children, and also to see if they could read, and I found that almost without an exception that little fellows of 12 and 14 years could read a newspaper or almost anything else that was presented to them, especially those who had been in the mill communities for any length of time.

In numerous cotton mills there are rules against the employment of children under 12 years of age, and even in these mills the managers are unwillingly compelled to accept children under 12 years; the parents feeling that their children are fully able to work. Some of these youngsters when taken into the mills make as much as 50 cents a day, but, as a general thing, their average earnings amount to 30 cents.

Practically all of the children that are employed in the cotton mills of this State are in the spinning rooms and their work is comparatively light. All this talk about their being constantly at work and never having a moment's rest is nonsense. Most of the children are employed at what is known as "doffing;" that is, the light wooden spools are put on the spinning frames for the yarn to run on and then, after the spool is filled with the thread or yarn, it has to be taken off, or "doffed," and put into a truck, and taken to its proper place. Empty spools are then taken to the spinning frame, so that they can be filled in turn with new yarn or thread. Of course, it takes some time for these spools, after they are put on the spinning frame, to be wound full of yarn or thread, and while the spools are being filled with yarn or thread there is nothing for the "doffing" children to do, as the spool is not taken off until it is full. The "doffers" can loaf around, or go outside, or do anything they wish. The intervals between the "doffing;" that is, the taking off of the filled spools and replacing them with empty spools, varies according to the size of the thread that is made. If the thread is of a fine grade it takes longer for the spool to fill than it would if the same spool carried a coarser or heavier thread. The intervals between the "doffing" varies all the way from a half an hour to two hours, according to the grade of goods that is being manufactured by the mill. But in no mill is the "doffing" continuous, because the spools cannot be filled as fast as they can be taken off and be replaced by empty ones. This "doffing" work, the sweeping of the floors and rolling of the light trucks, is about all that the children have to do in the cotton mills. When they grow a little older they attend to more important work.

It is not an unusual thing for mill help to leave one mill community and go to another, simply because the mill owners of some of the mills will not employ children, and I do not think it would be overstating the case to say that they would even go so far as to leave the State if the cotton mills did not employ their younger children, if they wished to have them work.

August Kohn.

ARTICLE X.

The Mills in South Carolina are not owned by New England Capitalists—A long list of Native South Carolinians who have achieved success in the Cotton Mill Business.

Some time ago one of the numerous alien writers, who have been coming here to traduce our people, made a severe arraignment of them in his magazine. The writer headed his article in the May number "White Slavery in the South." In the opening paragraph this misstatement is made: "The cotton mills of South Carolina are mostly owned and operated by New England capital."

Later on, in the same article, he said: "South Carolina cannot abolish child labor, because the mill owners, who live in New England, oppose it. They have invested their millions in South Carolina, with the tacit understanding with Legislature and Governor that there shall be no State inspection of mills nor interference in any way with their management of employees. Each succeeding election the candidates for the Legislature secretly make promises that they will not pass a law forbidding child labor. They cannot hope for election otherwise—the capitalists combine with the 'crackers' and any man who favors the restriction of child labor is marked."

This is of a kind with the statements in "The Philistine." Every man in South Carolina can judge for himself as to the correctness of such statements, and the "secret promises" and "tacit understanding" which he alleges as just about as near the truth as are his representations as to the ownership of the cotton mills.

"The cotton mills of South Carolina are mostly owned and operated by New England capital" just about as much so as are the farms of South Carolina. Eighty per cent of the cotton mill stock of South Carolina cotton mills is owned by South Carolinians. Not over 20 per cent, if that much is owned outside of the State, and of that a large part is owned by cotton mill factors and brokers in New York—not New England; and a small part by New England machinery manufacturers. The machinery manufacturers prefer cash and convert their stock into money just as soon as the stock is convertible, and in that way the stock originally held by the machinery makers is now largely held in South Carolina. There is not, so far as I know, with but one exception possibly, a mill—certainly none of the large mills—either owned or operated by New England capital. Not a share of stock of some of the mills is held outside of the State, and careful estimates, which have been made for me, show that fully 80 per cent of the stock in the South Carolina cotton mills is owned in this State. For instance, the stock of Piedmont, Pacolet, Newry, Greenville, Pelzer and other mills, is owned almost entirely by home people. In some instances the operatives themselves own stock.

It is worthy of note that South Carolinians are at the head of the cotton mills. They are the same people and of the same good stock as those they employ, and it is natural to suppose that they have full sympathy with their own people.

It is not such an easy matter to hunt up the genealogy of the mill presidents, but here are some of South Carolina's successful cotton mill presidents, who are Carolinians to the "manner born:"

Messrs John Harris, Abbeville; J. A. Brock, Anderson; W. F. Cox, Anderson; James L. Orr, Piedmont; J. A. Brock, Anderson; D. P. McBrayer, Riverside; R. Z. Cates, Arkwright; Lewis W. Parker, Greer's; A. J. Sitton, Pendleton; E. R. Hays, Bamberg; W. P. Roof, Lexington, S. C.; Ellison A. Smyth, Pelzer and Belton; D. D. McColl, Bennettsville; F. N. Zemp, Camden; E. Miller Boykin, Camden; D. K. Norris, Cateechée; George A. Wagener, Charleston; Leroy Springs, Lancaster; A. H. Twitchell, Clifton; Arch B. Calvert, Spartanburg; M. S. Bailey, Clinton; R. S. Hill, Anderson; A. Foster McKissick, Greenwood; R. B. Jennings, Columbia; W. B. Smith Whaley, Columbia; Allen Jones, Columbia; Geo S. Coffin, Enoree; W. E.

Lucas, Laurens; T. B. Stackhouse, Dillon; J. B. Lies, Fingerville; W. P. Nesbitt, Fork Shoals; J. M. Geer, Easley; D. A. Tompkins, Edgefield; S. E. White, Fort Mill; H. D. Wheat, Gaffney; J. A. Carroll, Gaffney; J. H. Morgan, Greenville; J. I. Westervelt, Greenville; Joseph Norwood, Greenville; F. W. Poe, Greenville; O. P. Mills, Greenville; C. C. Twitty, Hartsville; James D. Hammett, Honea Path; J. J. Littlejohn, Jonesville; J. P. Smith, Liberty; John C. Cary, Lockhart; Seth N. Scruggs, Lolo; T. B. Gibson, McColl; George W. Summer, Newberry; T. J. McCreery, Newberry; William A. Courtenay, Newry; W. G. Smith, Orangeburg; Victor M. Montgomery, Pacolet; Walter S. Montgomery, Spartanburg; Arthur Barnwell, Pelham; W. E. Beattie, Greenville; R. T. Fewell, Rock Hill; Isaac S. Cohen, Charleston; J. R. Barron, Rock Hill; John R. London, Rock Hill; L. W. Shorter, Seneca; John A. Law, Spartanburg; J. F. Cleveland, Spartanburg; W. H. Sarter, Union; Thomas C. Duncan, Union; John A. Fant, Union; Edwin R. Lucas, Wahalla; A. C. Shaffer, Walterboro; William Coleman, Whitmire, (lived there most of his life;) John B. Cleveland, Whitney; T. K. Elliott, Winnsboro; A. W. Smith, Woodruff; W. W. Lewis, Yorkville.

There are few, if any, of the larger mills—not counting the mills in the Horse Creek Valley section—the presidents of which live in Augusta—virtually our own people, that are not officered by superintendent or president of our own people. They have invested their money and shown their faith in their State and not gone about parading what they have done, but simply want to be let alone in their efforts to build up a great industry. No special legislation is required to keep them from doing ill to the State. It is certain that the history of their forefathers and their own lives have shown that such men as James L. Orr, John B. Cleveland, Ellison A. Smyth, the Montgomeries, W. A. Courtenay, Tom Duncan, the son of Bishop Duncan; J. A. Brock, W. B. Smith Whaley, Washington A. Clark, Lewis W. Parker, D. K. Norris, W. E. Lucas and his brother, Edwrd W. Lucas; Leroy Springs, John C. Cary, Jesse F. Cleveland, T. J. McCreery, Arch B. Calvert, Thos K. Elliott, are to be trusted with the best interests of this State. They and all the other cotton mill presidents are of the same flesh and blood as those who work for them and no one will believe that they are grinding down their operatives.

August Kohn.

ARTICLE XI.

A Tabulated Statement of the Spindles in the various Cotton Mills of South Carolina.

Columbia, January 21.—Special: From time to time attempts have been made to give the actual number of spindles in this State. It seems to be a rather difficult matter to get at the correct number of spindles and looms that are in operation in South Carolina. A great many of the cotton mill officers are indifferent about giving out this information, and while various attempts have been made to get the data correctly, it seems to have been impossible to do so. It has been my purpose to get up a statement showing the exact number of spindles in this State, and with this in view, while visiting the various mill communities, I have undertaken to get the correct information from the mill officers. In some cases it has been secured by direct correspondence, and it was also sought from brokers in cotton mill stocks, as well as from various other sources. I think that the list here presented is about as correct as can be gotten at this time, and it is the most complete and up-to-date that is available.

It shows the number of spindles in this State to-day to be practically 2,623,099. This does not count the spindles that are to be put in operation during 1903.

This statement may not be correct, but it is the best that can be done under the circumstances, and is presented for what it is worth. Mr Shepperson, in his cotton statistics, places the number of "live" spindles in operation in South Carolina at 2,152,928.

Mr Whaley, in a recent talk of his, placed the number of spindles in South Carolina at 2,400,000, but from the figures here given, it is very much safer to place the number of spindles in South Carolina, including those that are determined upon and those being installed, at 2,750,000.

The following is the result of the tabulation from all the sources above indicated:

	Capital Stock.	Actual Spindles 1902.	Looms.
Abbeville Cotton Mills	\$700,000	28,836	940
Aiken County:			
Clearwater Bleachery	250,000	.....	...
Aiken Manufacturing Company	400,000	27,500	745
Graniteville Manufacturing Company	600,000	54,180	1,674
Langley Manufacturing Company	700,000	44,000	1,291
Warren Manufacturing Company	500,000	32,000	900
Anderson County:			
Anderson Cotton Mills (1 and 2)	600,000	69,312	1,864
Cox Manufacturing Company	100,000	8,600	None
Orr Cotton Mills	400,000	25,480	700
Riverside Manufacturing Company	200,000	9,248	None
Pendleton Manufacturing Company	50,000	2,500	None
Belton Mills	700,000	52,000	1,300
Peizer Manufacturing Company*	1,000,000	130,000	3,400
Piedmont Manufacturing Company	800,000	61,032	1,994
Williamston Cotton Mills	200,000	11,000	300
Bamberg County:			
Bamberg Cotton Mills	137,000	12,032	248
Cherokee County:			
Cherokee Falls Manufacturing Company	200,000	15,500	548
Gaffney Manufacturing Company	800,000	67,000	1,401
Limestone Mills	125,000	10,000	300

Capital Stock. Actual Spindles 1902. Looms.

Charleston County:			
Royal Bag and Manufacturing Company	325,000	5,000	125
Chester County:			
Eureka Cotton Mills	150,000	15,000	None
Springstein Mills	100,000	7,000	950
Wylie Mill	99,400	4,928	None
Monetta	100,000	7,000	None
Colleton County:			
Colleton Cotton Mills	71,000	5,440	136
Darlington County:			
Darlington Manufacturing Company	500,000	41,024	1,116
Hartsville Cotton Mill	250,000	12,000	400
Edgefield County:			
Edgefield Manufacturing Company	100,000	5,000	328
Fairfield County:			
Fairfield Cotton Mills	170,000	10,000	400
Greenville County:			
Camperdown (see other list) .....	.....	.....	..
Putnam Mills	50,000	2,600	None
Brandon Mills	220,000	15,252	400
Fork Shoals Cotton Mill	30,000	2,848	None
Fountain Inn Manufacturing Company	50,000	7,500	None
American Spinning Company	350,000	36,652	602
Carolina Mills	50,000	5,600	None
F. W. Poe Manufacturing Company	500,000	58,240	1,519
Huguenot Mills	75,000	6,000	329
Mills Manufacturing Company	371,000	27,000	740
Monaghan Mills	450,000	30,000	750
Franklin Mills	65,000	10,000	150
Pelham Mills	300,000	11,000	None
Reedy Manufacturing Company	175,000	12,360	327
Woodside Cotton Mill	250,000	10,000	320
Greenwood County:			
Greenwood Cotton Mills	187,500	10,000	384
Grendel Mills	350,000	30,240	834
Kershaw County:			
Camden Cotton Mills	85,320	12,000	300
De Kalb Cotton Mills	200,000	10,000	260
Lancaster County:			
Lancaster Cotton Mill (1 and 2) (No 2 Jan- uary 1, 1903)	1,000,000	68,600	1,990
Laurens County:			
Clinton Cotton Mills	150,000	17,452	450
Goldville Manufacturing Company	75,000	5,000	None
Laurens Cotton Mills	350,000	44,832	1,216
Lexington County:			
Lexington Manufacturing Company	50,000	3,776	204
Middleburg Mills	75,000	5,776	350
Saxe-Gotha Mills	50,000	5,000	240
Marion County:			
Dillon Cotton Mills	150,000	8,864	None
Ashby Cotton Mill	25,000	2,700	None
Marlboro County, (four mills:)			
Bennettsville Manufacturing Company ....	.....	15,000	None
Iceman Mills	1,000,000	10,000	None
Marie Mills .....	.....	5,000	None
McColl Manufacturing Company .....	.....	15,000	None
Octoraro Mills Company	80,000	5,200	None
Newberry County:			
Glenn-Lowry Manufacturing Company	500,000	25,000	800
The Mollohon Manufacturing Company	200,000	11,000	300
Newberry Cotton Mills	400,000	25,000	900
Oconee County:			
Courtenay Manufacturing Company	300,000	19,440	635
Seneca Cotton Mills	300,000	17,264	432
Waihalla Cotton Mills	150,000	10,000	320
Cheswell Cotton Mill Company	100,000	11,000	350
Orangeburg County:			
Orange Mills	60,000	5,096	None
Orangeburg Manufacturing Company	200,000	14,000	400

Capital Stock. Actual Spindles 1902. Looms.

Pickens County:			
Easley Cotton Mill (will have)	400,000	25,000	600
Norris Cotton Mills	200,000	13,248	350
Liberty Cotton Mills	75,000	6,000	175
Richland County:			
Capital City Mills	100,000	6,000	216
Columbia Mill Company	1,000,000	24,000	440
Granby Mills	800,000	57,000	1,500
Olympia Mills	1,750,000	104,000	2,400
Richland Cotton Mills	300,000	26,000	720
Palmetto Mills	125,000	8,224	250
Spartanburg County:			
Arkwright Mills	200,000	22,000	700
Arlington Cotton Mills	36,000	3,500	36
Clifton Manufacturing Company (1, 2 and 3)..	1,000,000	100,800	3,250
Cowpens Manufacturing Company ..	60,000	10,000	250
Mary Louise Mills	30,000	1,664	None
Enoree Manufacturing Company	400,000	30,720	820
Tyger Mills	50,000	6,000	168
Fingerville Manufacturing Company	50,000	10,000	None
D. E. Converse Company and Glendale, No 2	500,000	47,280	518
Victor Manufacturing Company (1 and 2)...	350,000	26,880	684
Inman Mills	500,000	18,336	500
Valley Falls Manufacturing Company	100,000	6,000	300
Pacolet Manufacturing Company (1, 2 and 3)..	700,000	57,000	2,190
Beaumont Manufacturing Company	60,000	3,100	None
Saxon Mills (1 and 2)	350,000	25,000	350
Spartan Mills (1 and 2)	1,000,000	80,000	2,458
Tucapau (see below)	269,200	30,000	800
Whitney Manufacturing Company (1 and 2)..	350,000	20,571	730
Woodruff Cotton Mills	200,000	12,500	250
Apalachian Mill (in construction)	350,000	15,000	400
Tucapau, No 2 (addition)	200,000	30,000	800
Drayton Mills (building)	250,000	12,500	250
Arcadia Mills (building)	200,000	12,500	250
Island Creek	25,000	1,040	...
Sumter County:			
Sumter Cotton Mill	42,800	4,000	None
Union County:			
Buffalo Cotton Mills	600,000	51,000	1,600
Alpha Cotton Mills	60,000	3,500	None
Jonesville Knitting Mill	35,000	(yarn, bought no)	None
Lockhart Mills (to be increased to) ..	1,000,000	50,000	1,500
Aetna Cotton Mills	200,000	11,000	300
Excelsior Knitting Mill	200,000	5,600	None
Monarch Cotton Mills	600,000	28,000	720
Union Cotton Mills	1,000,000	91,528	2,300
York County:			
Clover Cotton Manufacturing Company ...	180,000	13,000	None
Fort Mill Manufacturing Company ..	100,000	8,528	423
Milford Mill Company	75,000	5,400	334
Arcade Cotton Mill	100,000	6,032	314
Highland Park Manufacturing Company ...	100,000	7,500	800
Manchester Cotton Mill	250,000	18,176	300
Victoria Cotton Mills	60,000	7,000	272
Tavora Cotton Mills	21,700	5,000	None
York Cotton Mills	150,000	13,264	None
Chicora Cotton Mill	60,000	7,904	192
Chiquola Mfg Co, Honea Path	200,000	15,400	400
Totals	\$37,690,920	2,623,099	68,572

EXTENSIONS AND NEW MILLS THAT ARE CERTAIN.

	Capital.	Spindles.	Looms.
Brandon Mills, Greenville, (extension)	\$250,000	15,000	250
Monaghan Mills, Greenville, (extension)	400,000	31,000	800
New Camperdown, G'nville, (rehabilitating) ..	150,000	12,000	250

	Capital	Spindles.	Looms.
Murphy Mill, near Union, (projected)	200,000	16,000	275
Watts Cotton Mill, Laurens, (building)	250,000	15,000	250
Ware Shoals Mills, (building dam)	500,000	25,000	500
Greenwood Cotton Mill, (extension)	100,000	10,000	600
Taxaway, at Anderson, (almost complete)..	200,000	12,500	350
Brogan, at Anderson, (building)	500,000	25,000	500
Anderson Mills:			
Orr Cotton Mills (addition)	400,000	30,000	700
Grout Cotton Mills (to be built)	500,000	25,000	600
Gluck Mills, (Anderson)	500,000	25,000	600
Totals	\$3,950,000	141,500	5,925

ADDITIONAL KNITTING MILLS.

Blacksburg Spinning and Knitting Mill	81
J. B. Strobel, Blackville	36
Bowling Green Knitting Mill .....\$15,000	20
George H. Tilton, State Penitentiary Knitting Mill ..	598
Dillon Hosiery Mill	20
Blue Ridge Hosiery Mill 20,000	312
Harvin W. Scott Knitting Mill	57
Newberry Knitting Mill 17,000	192
Rosemary Knitting Mill	68
Totals	\$52,000 1,384

It will be noted that the information as to the knitting and hosiery mills is not complete. This is a new and growing factor in the cotton manufacturing development.

August Kohn.

COMMENTS OF THE PRESS.

August Kohn's letters to The News and Courier on the cotton mill labor question, are attracting widespread attention. Mr. Kohn is an able writer, and an impartial observer. He gives facts, and is exact in his statements. He is doing a good work.—Greenwood Index.

Mr. August Kohn, the Columbia correspondent of The News and Courier, is giving a very comprehensive and interesting writeup of the child labor question, from a personal investigation inside the mills, throughout the State. It is a plain, unvarnished statement of the conditions as he found them. The articles began in Monday's issue, this week, and they are worth a careful reading.—Union Times.

Mr. August Kohn, the well known Columbia correspondent of The News and Courier, has recently made a tour of the cotton mills of the State, and is writing a series of letters for his paper, giving the result of his observations. He will deal particularly with the child labor question.

The letters are bound to be very entertaining, and unless we are badly mistaken, they will be instructive. Mr. Kohn is a fluent writer, as well as an accurate one, and he is a close observer.

The Kohn letters should be read by the new members of the Legislature, as it is very likely that they will be called upon to legislate on the child labor question. If the members of the incoming Legislature are at all like a goodly percentage of the last Legislature, they stand in great need of reliable information on this subject.

This editor served as a reporter in the Senate during the past two sessions of the Legislature, and for many weary days and nights we heard the child labor question debated, both pro and con, by statesmen who knew nothing at all about it. We heard a man speak one day for nearly two hours in advocacy of the child labor law. We gave the newspaper a full report of his speech, and when the gentleman came to us the next day to express his thanks for it, we got to talking with him about cotton [mills]. We were very much surprised, and not a little disgusted, to learn that he had been in a cotton mill but twice in his life, and then to stay but a short while. He had gotten his whole ideas on the child labor question from the literature sent out by the labor unions and Northern agitators, a great deal of which had been copied in the newspapers of the State.

He knew just about as much about the actual conditions prevailing in and around the cotton mills in South Carolina, as he knew about the condition of the pumpkin crop in Senegambia. Some inquiry convinced us that there were others like him, and that a great deal of dense ignorance prevailed among the legislators concerning a subject upon which they were trying to legislate.

If Mr. Kohn can succeed in giving the members of the new Legislature some reliable information concerning the cotton mills of the State, and the child labor question in particular, he will have conferred a very great benefit. The cotton mill people, we take it, have nothing to fear from any law that may be passed by people who know what they are doing. It is the action of the people who do not know, or have secured their information from wholly hostile sources, that is to be feared.—The Daily Mail, Anderson.

The News and Courier has commenced the publication of a series of letters from Mr. August Kohn, on the child labor question. It is hardly necessary for any newspaper in South Carolina to try to tell who Mr. Kohn is. He has been prominently before the people of the State for the past ten years or more, and during that time he has established a reputation for ability, fairness, discriminating discernment, generous liberality and breadth second to no other public man in the State. Every disinterested newspaper editor in South Carolina recognizes his high standing in the profession, and they have long since ceased to look for sinister motives in any of his writings. Mr. Kohn has been all over the State, and has made special investigation of the child labor question in all its phases. He can be depended upon to see the subject from a rational standpoint, and to tell the whole truth just as it is. Whether they will or not, remains to be seen; but his articles should have a decided influence on the whole subject—especially if it is the real facts the people are after—Yorkville Enquirer, Jan. 7, 1903.

One of the most important matters to come before the present session of the Legislature is that of child labor in the mills. The investigations which have been made thus far would all indicate that the children in the mills of South Carolina are better off, as a rule, than those of the poorer classes outside of the mills, and a thousand fold better cared for than the children in the mining districts of Pennsylvania.

Another fact disclosed is that the so-called philanthropists of the North and East are largely responsible for the hue and cry that is being raised throughout the Southern country regarding the "outrages" in Southern mills. If the mills of the South were not coming into lively competition with those of other sections, we would not hear a word on this subject. And if the "moralists" and philanthropists of the New England and Middle States would let the South alone, and confine their attentions to the frightful and growing abuses prevalent throughout their own sections of the country, it would be far better for all concerned. The question of marriage and divorce will alone furnish sufficient material to occupy the attention of those ever zealous reformers for the next fifty years, and while their emissaries are engaged in the unholy business of attempting to create ill feeling between capital and labor in South Carolina, we would suggest to them as more profitable, a careful study of the divorce laws of this State, and an investigation of the conditions of domestic life in South Carolina, for comparison with those conditions as existing to-day in the highly moral and enlightened communities of the North and East. As regards legislation, it would seem best for our lawmakers to "go slow" in this instance; we are overrun with legislation as it is. Fewer laws, better enforced, would be a great improvement on present conditions.—From the Summerville News.

Mr. August Kohn has made a tour of the State, visiting a large number of the cotton mills. On this trip he has inquired into every particular which would, in any way, be favorable or unfavorable to the mill operators, or the operatives. In other words, he has endeavored to get to the bottom of the question. He has been giving a complete account of his findings, in a series of articles published in *The News and Courier*. There seems but little doubt that the great desire existing in some quarters for a child labor bill which would prevent children working in the mills, has been founded on an unsound basis. This demand or agitation has not come from the mill people themselves, but from a class of people working on an unsound theory. No legislation is desired by the mill people. This comes from an outside sentiment. Mr. Kohn shows, and can prove, that the condition of the average mill people have been greatly improved by their change in going to the mills. Besides, there is no law to compel a person to stay in or at the mills, if they can do better elsewhere. He shows, that as a rule, the mill people have better houses to live in, better church and school privileges, and a better living, than they were accustomed to before going to the mills. Their opportunities for all social privileges have been greatly improved. It can be shown that the sallow complexion, which most of the mill people have, is not due altogether to their labor in the mills, or to the sanitary conditions thereabout, as a majority of that color were so before moving to the mills. Nearly all the mills support a school, at which the operatives can send their children, without cost. Churches are also kept up in the same way—all privileges which cost money. It will be a difficult matter to pass a bill as has been desired, if the Legislators will but heed the impartial statements as published from day to day.—From the *Manning Farmer*.

